Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Bill wants banks to vie for govt funds. PAGE 3

18 pct govt contribution to Fund OK'd. PAGE 5

Candle triggers fire in CK

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An unattended lighted candle triggered a fire at a house in Chalan Kanoa District 2 Thursday night.

No one was reported injured in the blaze as nobody was home when the fire broke out. This is the third time that a fire originating from a lit candle happened since October last year.

The house, which was made up of wooden/tin materials, sustained extensive heat and smoke damage. Its roof collapsed.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said yesterday that investigators have classified the incident as an accident.

"It does not constitute arson or reckless burning," Ogumoro said.

DPS received the report about a structure fire in Chalan Kanoa on Thursday at 9:55pm.

Investigation showed that the owner,

See CANDLE on Page 4

2 tourists robbed at Banzai Cliff

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Instead of being helped, a tourist who had crashed from his motorcycle was robbed, together with his friend, by three unidentified armed men at Banzai Cliff in Marpi Thursday afternoon.

One tourist lost his wallet containing an undetermined amount of money and a black Panasonic digital camera, police

See 2 TOURISTS on Page 4

BIRD SANCTUARY JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tourists enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the Bird Island Marine Sanctuary. Bird Island is also called Isleta Maigo Fahang or "island of sleeping seabirds" by local residents.

Study: The Pill protects vs cancer

By MARIA CHENG
AP MEDICAL WRITER

LONDON (AP)—Women on the birth control pill are protected from ovarian cancer, even decades after they stop taking it, scientists said. British researchers found that women taking the pill for 15 years halved their chances of developing ovarian cancer, and that the risk re-

See STUDY on Page 4

US House subcommittee to hold Pacific minimum wage hearing

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
PACIFIC MAGAZINE

The U.S. House Subcommittee on Insular Affairs is set to hold two hearings in American Samoa next month dealing with the federal minimum wage and a measure that directs the Secretary of Interior to place three questions on the territory's November general election ballot.

The subcommittee, which is chaired by U.S. Rep. Donna Christensen, is scheduled to be in the territory on Feb. 21 with the hearings set for Feb. 22 at the American Samoa Community College.

Speaking on his weekly radio program Wednesday night, Faleomavaega said the "oversight hearing" will be held first and this deals with the new federal minimum wage that went into effect last year.

Faleomavaega

He said the hearing will provide a good opportunity for the public to voice its concerns about the escalating minimum wage, which affects both American Samoa and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The first escalating clause, of 50 cents per hour, goes into effect in May this year and another 50 cents every year thereafter until the minimum wages in American Samoa and CNMI reaches the new federal level of $7.15 per hour.

Faleomavaega said last month that the hearing is important before Congress receives a report from the U.S. Department of Labor on the economic impact on the two territories because of the new

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Have you already read the newly enacted labor reform law?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

Unworthy?

Republican presidential contenders think Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton is unworthy of the White House.

NATION...Page 10

RP Upgrade

Moody's Investors Service has raised its outlook on Philippine ratings to positive from stable.

MAHARLIKA...Page 12

Bond Returns

Bond is back–and he wants revenge in "Quantum of Solace."

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Local

Hiring moratorium phased out in 4 years

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government will phase out the moratorium on the hiring of foreign national workers within a four-year period starting this year.

According to the Employment Rules and Regulations under Public Law 15-108, the hiring moratorium will no longer apply to the visitor industry as of Jan. 1, 2008. The visitor industry covers hotels, airlines, aircraft services, tour packagers, tour guides, tourist transportation, and tourist sports, charters, and recreation services.

The regulations were submitted by Labor Secretary Gil M. San Nicolas last Tuesday to the Commonwealth Registrar. The Employment Rules and Regulations completely replace the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations.

Next year, Jan. 1, 2009, the moratorium will no longer apply to the services industry. Under the services industry are accountants, lawyers, banks and financial services, medical and health care services, and maintenance, repair, and rental services. The services industry also includes restaurants and catering services, retail and wholesale sales and services, bakeries with retail outlets, freight and shipping services, appraisal and surveying services, and education services.

As of Jan. 1, 2010, the moratorium will not apply to agricultural, fishing and fisheries, forestry, and grounds-keeping positions.

Finally, as of Jan. 1, 2011, the moratorium expires with respect to all remaining positions, according to the Regulations.

While the moratorium is being phased out, the Regulations say that there are, however, six exemptions to the moratorium.

The exemptions, the Regulations state, are "defined areas of economic growth and development and areas set aside for the preservation of the tax base of the Commonwealth."

Exemptions, the Regulations say, are claimed on a standard form and that these will be either granted or denied by the Labor director.

CNMI spends $8.8M a year on dialysis treatment

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI spends up to $8.8 million a year on the hemodialysis treatment of diabetic patients at the Commonwealth Health Center, according to the Commonwealth Diabetes Coalition and the Department of Public Health.

Public Health diabetes prevention and control manager Tayna Belyeu-Camacho said that CHC is currently treating 96 patients at the hemodialysis center. The average cost of dialysis for one patient is $92,654.83 per year.

Marianas Health Services administrator and new CDC chair George Cruz said that it cost over $12 million to build the new hemodialysis wing of the hospital, on top of the annual $8.8 million annual expenditure to treat the patients.

"Right there alone is $21 million in one year, while a prevention program in one year that would address the issues with conferences, health screenings, etc., would cost a lot less than $200,000," Cruz said.

"That is a big, big disparity in regards to our priorities. And that is why we are hitting up our legislators," he added.

The CDC and other prevention organizations and coalitions have teamed up to address the need for sin tax money to be allocated to prevention and control programs.

Camacho said it only cost $5 per patient a year for prevention and control programs, as opposed to the $92,654.83 it would take to treat them.

"We are just killing ourselves. Why? Because this is a disease that is preventable," said Cruz.

Based on a chart provided by the CDC, 56 percent of diabetics on the island are indigenous residents, while Filipinos come in second at 19 percent.

Cruz said that based on a World Health Organization 2002 survey, CNMI local residents ranked third among groups with the highest rate of diabetes around the world.

According to a recent report from the American Diabetes Association, diabetes is costing Americans $174 billion annually, "a figure that has increased by 32 percent since 2002."

Sablan explains 'nay' vote on resolution

Rep. Tina Sablan justified yesterday her vote against a House resolution commending a Guam radio station and urging it to extend broadcast coverage to the islands north of Saipan.

Sablan, the only House member to oppose the resolution during session earlier this week, stood by her decision despite being taunted by her colleagues that it was "just a resolution."

"My understanding of resolutions adopted by the House is that they should be reserved for milestones and significant achievements. I honestly thought that the resolution did not meet that standard," she said.

Another reason she opposed the resolution is some provisions that she said could be perceived as offensive to Micronesians.

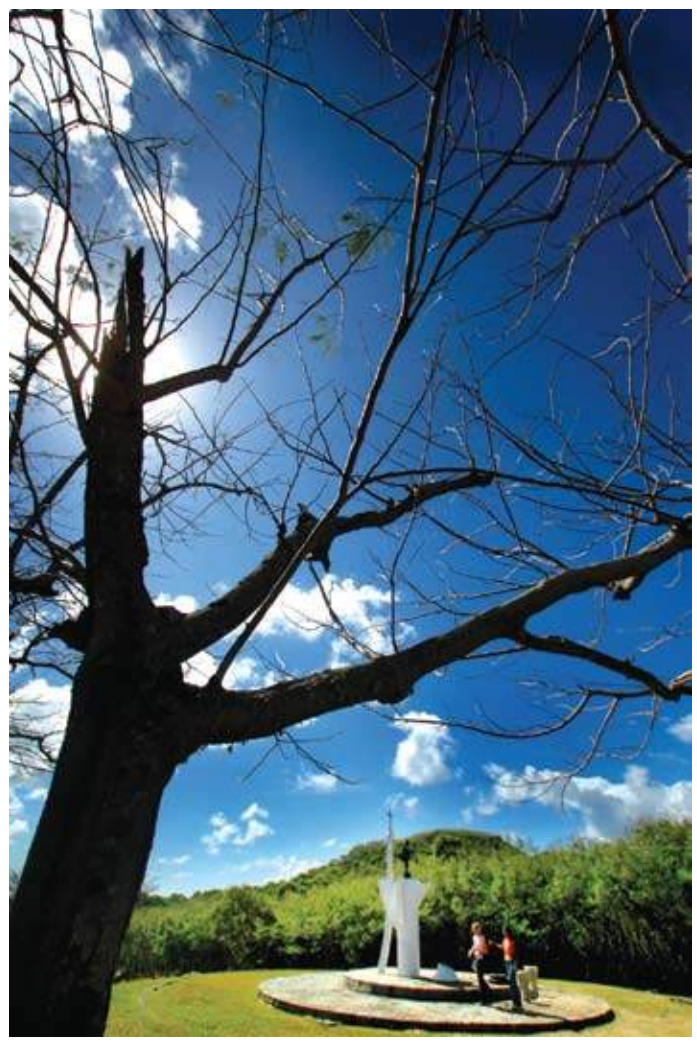
But the most important reason, she said, is that "people might check the records of the Legislature someday and find that the House took the time to adopt this resolution. Surely, we have more pressing issues we should be addressing."

Sablan noted that the resolution is an official expression of the House "and I do take that seriously."

The resolution commends KUAM's Isla 63 and its operator, the Calvo family, for promoting Chamorro language and culture through local music and programming.

It also states that the AM radio station can improve service to the CNMI by increasing power transmission to reach as far north as the Pagan and Asuncion islands. Currently, only radios with strong receivers in selected areas on Saipan can pick up Isla 63 programs.

Furthermore, the resolution requests the radio station to include the Carolinian language and culture in its programming. ***(Agnes E. Donato)***



PRAYER OFFERINGS JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Tourists offer prayers at a monument in Suicide Cliff at the northern part of Saipan. The cliff is also called Laderan Banadero by the locals and is where many Japanese civilians jumped to their deaths as the American forces advanced during World War II.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
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Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW08-IFB-008

This ad is paid for by the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) with HUD Funds.

Construction of the Saipan Skate Park

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the **Construction of the Saipan Skate Park,** at Sugar King Park, in Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Project Package will be available on or after January 25, 2008, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 P.M.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays. A non-refundable payment of Seventy-Five ($75.00 is required for each set. Payment shall be by cash, check, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate of $3.55 per hour which took effect on July 25, 2007 as established by Federal law including subsequent increases of $.50 per hour every six (6) months until the hourly rate equals that of the Federal Minimum Wage of $7.50 per hour.

A Pre-bid Conference will be conducted at 9:00 a.m. local time, February 13, 2008 at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of the Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, Gualo Rai, or faxed to (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time, February 14, 2008.

Sealed Bids must be marked **DPW08-IFB-008**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than February 20, 2008 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than February 29, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, March 3, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, February 20, 2008.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00), a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be in the form of a Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Saipan Skate Park Project". Surety companies must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable le to the Attorney General. Bid bonds must be certified by the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Pursuant to Governor's Directive 251 dated March 15, 2006, bidders are required to include a Clearance from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner with respect to the financial bonding capability of the bidders' chosen Surety.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds and the contractors to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

All bidders are hereby notified that the CNMI Government will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/
Jose S. Demapan
Secretary of Public Works

/s/
Manuel A. Sablan
Chairman & Contracting Officer
Northern Marianas Housing Corporation

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Flame Tree TV adds 2 new faces

Flame Tree TV has added two new members to its team.

Adeana Shendal Greenlee is the new director of Business Development for both the Visitor's Channel 3 and the Local Channel 2. Correspondent Janet Ahn will report and anchor the Channel 2 News.

Greenlee has more than 10 year of public relations, marketing, and journalism experience in the travel and hospitality industry. She was previously the director of Public Relations for Four Seasons Hotel Las Vegas. She received her bachelor's degree from New York University with a concentration in communications and journalism.

Ahn

Greenlee

"We are really excited to have Adeana, she has a tremendous background in both news and public relations. She will help develop and produce both segments and new content for both of our channels and will provide creative services for our advertisers," said Flame Tree president Chris Nelson.

Ahn recently received her Masters in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Chicago. Most recently, Ahn worked as the Washington D.C. correspondent for KTVQ, the CBS affiliate in Billings, Montana.

"Janet is going to be a tremendous asset. She knows how to report, shoot, and edit, is fluent in both English and Korean, and we anticipate her helping us develop content in two languages," said Nelson.

The Flame Tree TV and Production Company manages and operates the local channel KSPN2, and The Visitors Channel 3. ***(PR)***

Bill wants banks to vie for govt funds

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Banks will have to compete against one another to receive government deposits under legislation proposed in the House of Representatives.

Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, author of the bill, said the proposal will safeguard government funds from potential abuse.

"Right now, there are no clear-cut criteria for deciding where to put government funds. Some autonomous agencies pick a bank because they have board members connected to that banking institution. The system is subject to abuse," Deleon Guerrero said in an interview.

Under House Bill 16- 4, funds amounting to less than $100,000 must be deposited only with banks insured by a federal agency or a U.S. Treasury listed surety agency. All of the deposited funds in excess of the insurance coverage should be secured by bank assets valued at all time at 100 percent of the excess funds. Bank assets that serve as collateral for the public funds should be in the form of U.S. Treasury bonds and U.S. government agency securities.

The bill also authorizes the Department of Commerce to establish standards that banks must meet to be eligible to receive and hold government deposits.

The Department of Finance is also directed to issue regulations for the selection of banks that comply with the standards set by the Commerce Department.

Deleon Guerrero also introduced the bill in the 15th Legislature. The bill passed the House, but died in the Senate.

Take part in US Democratic primary

It's not too late to vote in the U.S. Democratic Party primary!

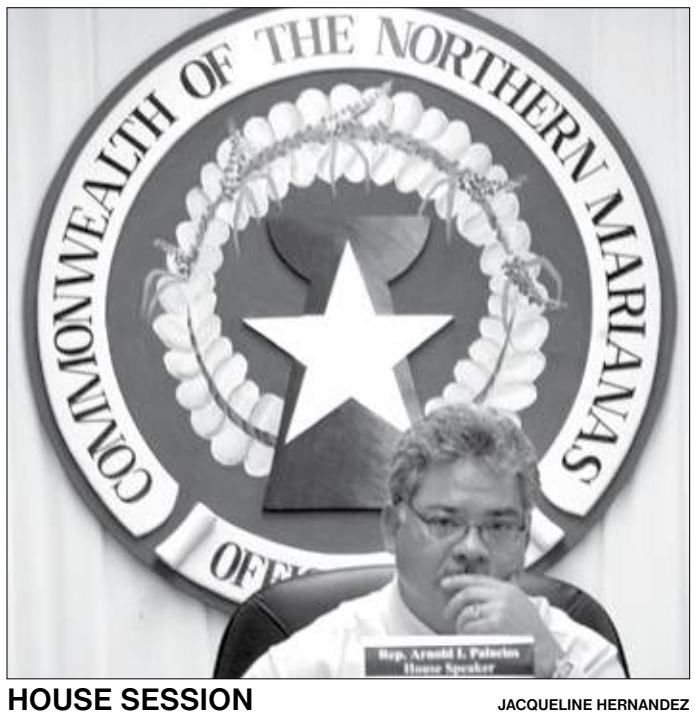
Democrats Abroad, the overseas branch of the U.S. Democratic Party, has set up a system to allow overseas voters to cast their ballot in the primary as a member of the Overseas Caucus, rather than having to go through the state's registration process.

The Democrats Abroad Global Primary will take place from February 5-12, 2008. Balloting will be allowed by Internet, fax or snail mail.

American citizens living overseas (including residents of the CNMI) who want to vote in the Democratic global primary must already be members of Democrats Abroad, or THEY MUST JOIN BY JAN. 31.

Additional details, as well as the membership application (just click on the "join now" button), are available at www.VoteFromAbroad.org.

However, to vote in the U.S. presidential election in November, overseas voters must request a ballot from local voting authorities in the place where they last resided in the U.S., also possible at www.VoteFromAbroad.org. ***(PR)***



HOUSE SESSION JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios leads the first session of the 16th House of Representatives on Capital Hill Tuesday.

Guam National Guard hosts 2008 Freedom Salute rites

Over 150 soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard are scheduled to be awarded at the 2008 Freedom Salute Ceremony today, Jan.26, from 3pm to 5pm at the University of Guam Field house.

The Freedom Salute is one of the largest Army National Guard recognition endeavors in history, designed to publicly acknowledge Army Guard soldiers and those who supported them during the President's call to duty for recent military operations—Operation Noble Eagle, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Each soldier will receive an encased American flag, a commemorative coin, a certificate of appreciation and a lapel insignia. The soldier's spouse will receive a lapel insignia while the soldier's children will be recognized and presented with a Future Soldier footlocker kit. This kit includes the Daring Eagle board game, mission Command game, trading cards and comic book. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §8113, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on January 29, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the Civil Service Commission Conference Room, 1211 Capitol Hill Road, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Seating of new Commission Members**
4. **Election of Officers**
5. **Adoption of Minutes**
6. **Executive Directors Report**
7. **Legal Counsel Report**
   a. P.L. No. 15-43 Boards and Commissions Reform Act of 2006
   b. Cases to be scheduled for hearing
8. **Old Business**
   a. Adoption of amendments to Personnel Service Rules and Regulations
9. **New Business**
   a. House Bill No. 15-122
   b. Renumbering of Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations
   c. P.L. No. 15-119
9. **Announcements**
10. **Adjourn**

Felix R. Fitial, Member **Daniel H. Nielsen, Member** **Tina I. Kukkun, Member**

Majuro faces outage over late fuel delivery

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—Dwindling fuel supplies and a weather-delayed fuel tanker are posing problems for the main utility company in the Marshall Islands.

A fuel tanker from S. Korea was scheduled to arrive in Majuro this week, but its arrival has been pushed back to February 1st after severe storms hit South Korea.

It takes a tanker about 12 days to make the 3,000-mile journey from South Korea to Majuro.

The utility's general manager William Roberts says there is only enough fuel in its tanks to last until next Tuesday.

He says they are looking at all options to make sure the power doesn't go out.

Majuro has repeatedly faced the threat of fuel shortages because its debt coupled with rising prices and an inability to generate adequate revenues from its customers has forced it to reduce orders of diesel to minimum amounts.

The utility came close to running out of diesel on several occasions in 2006 and 2007.

NMI student makes it to Dean's List

CNMI student Joel Tumlos Labuson was named to the Dean's List at Pensacola Christian College for academic achievement during the 2007 fall semester.

According to PCC, "this was the result of earning a B average or higher."

Labuson grew up in the CNMI since he was three years old. He graduated from the Marianas Baptist Academy in 2007 and is now a nursing student at the PCC.

Labuson is the son of Joseph and Elma Labuson and is the eldest of two.

"When Joel first found out, he told us he was very surprised. He really did not expect this. But with continued encouragement, he'll do very well. We're all very proud of him," mother Elma said.

PCC is a liberal arts college enrolling students from every state in the U.S. and from around the world. PCC has an enrollment of more than 45,000 students in its undergraduate programs and offers a variety of programs of study. ***(Rianne Pangelinan-Brown)***

Labuson

PACIFIC BRIEFS

American Samoa governor out of Hawaii hospital

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—The American Samoan governor, Togiola Tulafono, has been discharged from the Tripler Army Medical Center in Honolulu. A statement from the Governor's Office says the governor walked out of the hospital without assistance and in very good spirits. Last week, he was flown to Hawaii on a special aircraft after spending 10 days at the LBJ hospital in Pago Pago. The governor had an appendectomy on January the 6th and a second operation a week later.

He is to have follow-up checks in Honolulu before returning to American Samoa at a date yet to be decided.

Air Vanuatu shows off new Boeing 737-800

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (The National/PIR)—Air Vanuatu's new Boeing 737-800 plane has landed in Port Vila and Luganville in Santo and flown all over the country on a maiden flight for the people to see their new plane which will replace the current B737-300 on February 1, Radio New Zealand International reported. The airline's chief executive officer Terry Kerr told invited guests that the plane was unique in the region as it is the only fitted with some of the up-to- date technological equipment. Kerr had praised the engineers of the airline for keeping the current Boeing 737-300 plane as good as new for 10 years.

Dead sperm whale loses teeth on Fiji beach

SUVA, Fiji (FijiSUN/PIR)—A dead sperm whale washed up on a Fiji beach was found to be minus all its teeth, according to officials who went to inspect it yesterday. A team from the conservation group WWF visited Mali Island in Labasa to view the 14.6 meter sperm whale (Physeter macrocephalus) dead on the seashore. It is believed that all its teeth were removed by locals. The teeth (tabua) is used for ceremonial purposes by natives. Islander Kaminieli Lasaqa said the locals were selling the teeth for between FJ$50 and FJ$300 [US$32 and US$192] each. The large mammal was found dead last week and was big enough to be spotted from the Malau Jetty in Labasa.

STUDY

From Page 1

mained low more than 30 years later, though protection weakened over time. The findings were published Friday in The Lancet.

"Not only does the pill prevent pregnancy, but in the long term, you actually get less cancer as well," said Valerie Beral, the study's lead author and director of the Cancer Research UK Epidemiology Unit at Oxford University. "It's a nice bonus." The study was paid for by Cancer Research UK and Britain's Medical Research Council.

Beral and colleagues analyzed data from 45 studies worldwide, covering 23,257 women with ovarian cancer, of whom 31 percent were on the pill. They also looked at 87,303 women without ovarian cancer, of whom 37 percent were on the pill.

In both groups, the women on the pill took it for about five years. The researchers found that in rich countries, women taking oral contraceptives for a decade were less likely to develop ovarian cancer. Without the pill, about 12 women per 1,000 are expected to get ovarian cancer before age 75. But that figure dropped to 8 women per 1,000 in those on the pill.

The experts estimated that use of the pill so far has prevented about 200,000 cases of ovarian cancer and 100,000 deaths from the disease. Based on current levels of oral contraceptive usage, they guessed that 30,000 cases could be avoided every year.

"To be able to save thousands of women's lives every year by using contraceptives is remarkable," said Dr. Beth Karlan, director of the Women's Cancer Research Institute at Cedars Sinai in California and an official with the American Society of Clinical Oncology. Karlan was not connected to the Lancet study. In the West, ovarian cancer is one of the most common types of cancer in women. Older women are most at risk and survival rates are generally poor.

While the pill protects against ovarian cancer, it slightly increases the chances of breast and cervical cancer. But those risks disappear after women stop taking oral contraceptives. And the pill also provides long-term protection against endometrial cancer, which affects the lining of the uterus.

Scientists don't know why the pill increases some cancer risks while decreasing others. "It may have something to do with the hormones in the contraceptives," said Dr. Debbie Saslow, director of breast and gynecologic cancer at the American Cancer Society. "Hormones such as estrogen can be growth-promoting in some body parts and have the opposite effect in other body parts," she said.

But because there is no early test for ovarian cancer, which is often diagnosed late with a bad prognosis, doctors say that the pill's protective effects against ovarian cancer outweigh the small increased risks of breast and cervical cancer - unless women already have a history of those cancers.

"This is the first medication that we know of to cut ovarian cancer risk," Beral said. Other measures to protect against ovarian cancer are probably not things women would do unless they had more compelling reasons: having children or getting their tubes tied.

Still, most doctors do not suggest that women take the pill exclusively for its anticancer properties. The pill comes with side effects including risks of blood clots, migraines, and high blood pressure. Those risks are particularly elevated in women in their late 30s and in smokers.

In an editorial in The Lancet, experts called for better access to oral contraceptives, arguing that the drugs should now be available over the counter.

As the pill becomes more common in developing countries, experts estimate that ovarian cancer incidence will fall worldwide. In 2002, the United Nations estimated that 120 million women globally were on the pill, two-thirds of whom were in developing countries.

2 TOURISTS

From Page 1

said yesterday.

The victims—both Japanese—described the suspect who was armed with a bat as 5'8" tall, medium built and was wearing a beige shirt, dark long pants, and slippers.

The second suspect, who was armed with a knife, was about 5'7" to 5'8" tall, was barefoot, and wearing a grey shirt and dark long pants.

The third suspect was the driver of the suspects' car. No description of him was given.

Police said the two tourists were driving rented motorcycles and were on their way from Banzai Cliff when one of them crashed. The 25-year-old male tourist went back to assist his friend.

A white car passed them on its way out from Banzai Cliff, but returned to the tourists' location.

Two masked men armed with a knife and bat got out of the vehicle and demanded that they hand over their belongings.

One tourist handed over his wallet. The suspects managed to get his digital camera as well.

The third suspect served as the driver of the getaway car.

The victims then went to their hotel where they called the police.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Lei Ogumoro said the NMI Crime Stoppers Program is offering up to $1,000 cash reward to anyone who can provide information leading to the suspects' arrest.

Early this month, four armed robbery incidents occurred on Saipan in seven days.

Last Jan. 15, a female cashier foiled a masked man's attempt to stage an armed robbery at Smile Store in San Antonio.

US HOUSE

From Page 1

federal minimum wage law.

Pacific Magazine learned yesterday that the DOL report is expected to be released on Friday to Congress, pending any final edits. None of the traditional leaders in American Samoa contacted by *Pacific Magazine* were aware of what's in the report.

According to a statement issued Thursday by the Congressman's Office the subcommittee plans to hear from witnesses representing the federal government, possibly from the Department of Interior and the Department of Labor.

The subcommittee is also planning to extend invitations to local government leaders including the governor, president of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and representatives from the two canneries.

The second hearing, also on Feb. 22, is a legislative hearing on a federal measure that instructs the Department of Interior to place on the November 2008 ballot three questions:

(1) whether individuals who are born in American Samoa should become citizens of the United States,

(2) whether the Senators of the American Samoa Fono (or Legislature) should be elected by the qualified electors from the respective counties that the Senators are to represent, and

(3) whether American Samoa should have its own Federal district court with limited jurisdiction.

Faleomavaega said this particular measure touches on some very sensitive issues concerning the territory, and it is important for the subcommittee to hear directly from the people of American Samoa on how to proceed with this legislation.

The American Samoa Senate has strongly opposed the measure saying that such decision on these issues rest solely on local government.

However, Faleomavaega said last month that it's pertinent that there is wide public opinion from the community on these important questions that has been raised over the past years. Many local residents have written to the media in support of Faleomavaega, saying that the "general public or the common person" should be given these questions to answer but not the Fono.

CANDLE

From Page 1

David C. Angui, had lit a candle inside the bedroom to illuminate the interior as the house did not have electrical power.

Based on the interview with the occupants, investigators learned that no one was home when the fire occurred. Angui was reportedly at the neighbor's house when someone informed him that his house was burning.

When firefighters arrived, the house was already engulfed in flames. Firefighters were able to bring the fire under control and secure the area.

Ogumoro said two families, including Angui and his 19-year-old daughter, occupied the house.

On Nov. 15, 2007, a fire reportedly caused by a lighted candle in the kitchen destroyed a house in Chalan Lau Lau.

Nine members of a family—four children and five adults—were all accounted for and no one was reported injured in that blaze.

On Oct. 4, 2006, an unattended lighted candle also caused a fire at a tinhouse in Chalan Kanoa, burning a Virgin Mary statue.

No one was reported injured as family members and neighbors extinguished the blaze even before the arrival of responding firefighters.

18 pct govt contribution to Fund OK'd

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has approved an 18-percent employer contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund, while insisting the government cannot afford it.

Fitial signed into law Senate Bill 15-102 on Thursday. The measure reduces the government's retirement contribution rate to 18 percent, from the 36.7 percent recommended by an actuary.

But the governor endorsed the bill with reservation. He said the reduced rate is "unrealistic" given the government's financial situation. He urged the Legislature to review the government's available resources and its ability to remit 18 percent, and to amend the law.

The administration maintains the government can only pay 11 percent of the employees' salaries to the pension program.

"The findings of the Legislature correctly state that the difference between the 18 percent proposed by this measure and the 36.7 percent currently imposed will accrue as a liability to the government.

"However, it incorrectly asserts that the CNMI government can afford to remit the 18 percent mandated by this legislation. The General Fund cannot afford the 18 percent retirement contribution rate. It is for that reason that the administration proposed an 11 percent contribution rate in the fiscal year 2008 budget," Fitial said.

The governor acknowledged that the government would be deeper in debt to the Fund because of the reduced contribution rate. He said his administration is committed to funding its obligation to the Fund, only it cannot do so overnight.

"…It requires a longer transition period beginning with a lower rate to fully meet that obligation," he said.

The Fitial administration said earlier that the budget will be short by $5 million if a retirement contribution rate of 18 percent, as opposed to 11 percent, is implemented.

The new rate is seen as a compromise between the 11 percent pushed by the administration and the 36.7 percent recommended by an actuarial study for the NMI Retirement Fund's defined benefit plan.

The 15th Legislature, which passed the bill, said 11 percent was too low, considering that the Fund pays an average of $5 million monthly to pensioners.

"We wanted to meet the Retirement Fund halfway," then House Speaker Oscar M. Babauta said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

CNMI Association of families with disabilities

Please be advised to all members that there will be a meeting today, Jan. 26, 2008 at Green Meadow School in Chalan Kiya at 9am. For further information call Mila at 483-2367, Lisa at 483-8295, Cocoy at 235-0439 or Maribel at 323-6274. ***(PR)***

MHS Class of '83 meeting

Marianas High School Class of 1983 will be holding a very important planning meeting on Feb. 1, 2008, Friday, at 7pm. The meeting will be held at one of the pavilions at Kilili Beach, Civic Center, Susupe.

Numbers of the 25th Year Reunion Banquet at PIC will be finalized on this night for reservation purposes. Event tickets can still be purchased on a layaway basis, so do not delay and don't miss out on your chance to catch up with the people you graduated with 25 years ago.

You may contact any of the Steering Committee members for details"

- Tonnei Camacho, 483-9665
- Viola Kaipat, 483-0214
- Ed Camacho, 483-5262
- Jane Tudela 234-9571
- Frances Mildred Cruz, 483-0995
- Ester Teregeyo, 285-6284
- Ben Sablan, 287-1480
- Diego Songsong, 287-4300

MHS Class of '88 reunion meeting

This is to inform the class of 1988 graduates of Marianas High School that there will be a meeting on Friday, Feb. 1, 2008 at 7pm at Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda residence in As Lito. This is to update plans on the upcoming 20th year class reunion.

"We are encouraging all classmates to please attend this important meeting for reunion day is just around the corner."

For more information, contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Villagomez at 287-4689. ***(PR)***

Chamber preps for Corporate Challenge

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is readying itself for the 2008 edition of its Corporate Challenge. This year, the intercompany competitive event is called "Chamber Corporate Cultural Challenge."

Each team must be composed of five individuals, at least one of whom must be female. The event will be held at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

Participation is limited to the first 20 teams to register. All proceeds will benefit the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund.

The Events Committee will discuss all of the particulars in greater detail with Team Captains. There will be three meetings for all Team Captains at the Chamber office on:

- Tuesday, Jan. 29, 3pm
- Tuesday, Feb. 12, 3pm
- Friday, Feb. 22, 3pm

Trails and Parks meeting set

There will be a Trails & Parks meeting on Feb. 7 at 2pm at the Resource Conservation & Development office. The RC&D office is on Beach Road on the first floor of the D.Y. Building with the coral reef banner out front. If it gets too large, the meeting will move next door to the NRCS office conference room.

"I hope to see you there, since anything, we do to improve our environment and ecotourism on this island will benefit everyone," said Ken Kramer, Marianas RC&D coordinator. ***(PR)***

Missing family dog

Our family dog was found missing on Monday, Jan. 21, 2008, around 10:30am from our residence in Palasyo Court, Dandan.

Our dog is a 3-year-old male Rottweiler, black with brown paws. If you see our dog, please contact Rudy at 288-2575 or Jocelyn at 234-6866.

He has been a part of our family and we hold him dear to our hearts. Please help us find him. Thank you. ***(PR)***

Essay and logo contest deadlines are extended

The Hafa Adai-Tirow Spirit Committee is holding a logo contest for all island artists and an essay contest for students grades 7-12. The deadline of submission for both logo designs and essays is Jan. 31, 2008 by 4:30pm. Submissions must be delivered to the Marianas Visitors Authority main office located in San Jose.

The logo contest is open to all resident artists of the CNMI of any age. Logo designs must illustrate the theme "The Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!", must incorporate the theme text, must work well in black and white, and must work well when reduced to 2.5 inches. Artists may submit as many logo designs as they wish. All submissions must include the name, telephone number and address of the artist. Logo designs must be submitted to the front office of the Marianas Visitors Authority, San Jose, Beach Road.

The essay contest is open to all CNMI students grades 7-12. Essays must address the question, "What can I do to show 'The Hafa Adai and Tirow Way!'" Essays must be between 400-500 words, be the original work of the student, and be typewritten on plain white paper or legibly handwritten on white lined paper. All submissions must include the name of the student, school, grade,, address and phone number.

Complete logo contest and essay contest guidelines are available at the Marianas Visitors Authority office, the NMI Museum Office, or you may contact Robert Hunter at telephone 664-2160/4 if you would like the guidelines faxed or e-mailed to you. ***(PR)***

Registration starts for 2nd Guam Industry Forum

The second Guam Industry Forum has launched a new web site and registration portal to kick off its registration period. The Forum is sponsored by the Joint Guam Program Office, JGPO, and the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, NAVFAC.

The Forum will provide updates on the planning and acquisition strategy efforts following the first Industry Forum held on Guam in August 2007. Anticipated topics for the March 6-8, 2008 forum include: Master planning and environmental impact statement updates; acquisition strategy and program management approaches; special purpose entities status for housing and utilities; funding profiles & relationships - government of Japan and U.S.; government of Guam issues and needs; future department of defense needs; federal involvement.

More information on the Guam Industry Forum II, the agenda, and registration forms are available on-line at www.guamindustryforum.com. Registration will close on Feb. 25, 2008. *(PR)*

WSR Elementary January events

Jan. 26 NJHS Induction Ceremony (details TBA later)

Saturday Reading Program, 8am to 10am/10am to 12pm (breakfast and lunch provided)

Jan. 29 Spelling Bee finals, 2:30pm, WSR cafeteria

Jan. 30 Half-day (Teacher Professional Development Day

The WSR Library will be open from 9am to 4pm from Jan. 2 to Jan. 9. Students and parents are encouraged to come to the library and borrow books and use the resources. *(PR)*

A WALK IN THE PARK JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ
Tourists walk past the time-honored ying-yang symbol on the Saipan Korean Peace Memorial in Marpi yesterday. The memorial honors thousands of Korean laborers killed during WWII.

Cruz asks Pete A. for full disclosure

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

TaoTao Tano Association president Greg Cruz has asked Washington Rep. Pete A. Tenorio for full disclosure of all of his expenditures for both his Washington and CNMI offices.

In an Open Government Act request to Tenorio, Cruz said it is only fair that Tenorio disclose all his expenditures since he is lobbying the 16th Legislature to exempt his office from any budget cuts by the Executive Branch.

Cruz

Tenorio

Tenorio had written to House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios asking the 16th Legislature to retain his office's budget at the proposed funding level of $950,000.

He had also urged lawmakers to exclude the Office of the Resident Representative from any reprogramming authority the Legislature may give the governor, insisting that his is an elected office that does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Executive Branch.

And because he operates offices in both the CNMI and in Washington, D.C., he said the limited financial resources given to his office should not be subject to reprogramming by the administration.

Tenorio explained that in the past two fiscal years, his office's budget was "unreasonably targeted with disproportionate and unfair reductions."

"My reasonable requests for parity were ignored by the administration," he added.

Cruz said he does not agree to Tenorio's "partial justification and reasoning" as to why his office should be exempted "in these trying economic times."

"Please be mindful and respect the fact that recently a vast majority of government employees were affected by a 10 percent reduction in pay including budget cuts for all other government agencies," said Cruz.

Cruz is asking Tenorio to provide the following beginning January 2007 to present: Monthly rental or lease expenses, all vehicles leased including rentals, all cell phones from both offices, all office equipment purchased or leased, utilities including cable, airfares for both offices, hotel and accommodation expenses, all legal consultants, number of employees, annual salary, stipend, bonuses and per diem.

Opinion

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EDITORIAL

Impunity in Sudan

It's a bleak day for humanity when one of the architects of the genocide in Darfur gets a promotion. In a gesture of supreme defiance of decency and international law, the Sudanese government announced Monday that it had appointed Musa Hilal, a militia leader who recruited and mobilized the janjaweed militias responsible for the carnage in Darfur, to be a special adviser to the president on ethnic affairs.

It gets worse. Hilal is the third alleged war criminal to be elevated to a government post. He is under United Nations and U.S. State Department sanctions; the other two have been indicted by the International Criminal Court. In an especially cynical move, one of the indicted has been put in charge of humanitarian aid to Darfur. Sudan also has been doing everything possible to obstruct the deployment of U.N. peacekeepers, including shooting at a clearly marked U.N. convoy this month.

Appeasement and negotiation from a position of weakness have not and will not stop the thuggery of the oil-rich Sudanese regime. Only muscle will do. But the "civilized" world has done next to nothing to enforce meaningful economic sanctions, hasn't even moved to arrest the indicted war criminals and, disgracefully, has yet to provide even one of the helicopters that U.N. peacekeepers need. It's time to face facts: Unless the U.N. gets far more political, economic and military support from its posturing but so-far feckless members, it may as well pack up its blue helmets and go home.

Monday's announcement appears calculated to send yet another message of contempt for U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who is scheduled to fly to Sudan at the end of the month to meet with President Omar Hassan Ahmed Bashir. Ban should cancel that trip and instead fly to Beijing, which persuaded Sudan to accept the peacekeepers in the first place, and ask again for Chinese help in pressuring Bashir. While there, he should announce that the mission cannot go forward until the United Nations receives the helicopters. Ban has been too diplomatic to note publicly that the U.S. military has plenty of spare choppers but does not want to send its pilots to a Muslim nation. Instead, Washington has shamefully suggested that the U.N. accept an offer of outdated Jordanian helicopters that cannot be flown at night—which is precisely when the Sudanese fly their nefarious missions. But the U.S. could easily lend or lease its helicopters to the U.N., which could then recruit pilots from other nations.

Either the world is willing to help the Darfurians, or it isn't. If the latter, it's even more cruel to promise help that will never arrive.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times

In cyberspace, everyone can hear you scream

By MARC FISHER
(c) 2008, The Washington Post

WASHINGTON—The kid knows no boundaries. But neither does the adult. The high school senior is so lost in a hyper-public, YouTube world that he thinks nothing of forwarding a private phone call to the entire planet. The wife of the Fairfax County, Va., schools administrator the kid called at home is understandably miffed about the invasion into her private sphere, yet she returns fire with a shockingly disproportionate blast of rage.

Every once in a while, a story confronts us with just how deeply divided we are—and how little we realize it. In the tale of how Lake Braddock Secondary School senior Devraj Kori called the chief operating officer of the Fairfax system to ask why schools weren't shut during last week's light snowfall, there are no good guys. There is only a confrontation with the gulfs that separate digital kids from analog parents and new concepts of community from old notions of responsibility.

No one in a story like this sees himself as having done wrong. When Kori called administrator Dean Tistadt's home number to voice his opinion that school ought to be closed, he thought he was standing up for himself and his fellow students, just as adults often encourage kids to do. The idea that he crossed a line by calling an adult's home is an alien concept to people who chronicle their every social encounter on Facebook or MySpace. "We are the cellphone generation," Kori said. "We are used to being reached at all times."

Or as a reader on washingtonpost.com put it, "Who has a home phone anymore?"

Nor would someone who thinks like that pause before posting on YouTube the intemperate response he received to his adolescent plea for a snow day.

Similarly, when Candy Tistadt returned Kori's call and left a message referring to the students her husband serves as "snotty-nosed little brats" and urged Kori to "Get over it, kid, and go to school!" she could not have imagined that her righteous tirade would be enshrined on the Web and on Page One of The Washington Post.

"It used to be you could have an inappropriate or rude conversation with someone, and it would stay private," says Ron McClain, director of the Parkmont School here and the parent of teen-agers in the Montgomery County, Md., schools. "There's a much fuzzier line between public and private now. This is a case where the technology has outpaced our ability to cope with its effects. As parents, we're way behind."

At home and at work, McClain says, he sees "boundaries dissolving. I send my kid a text message, and I expect an answer at the end of the day, but I hear right back, while he's in English class. I didn't mean for that to happen, but for kids, that's how they converse. They don't leave their friends like we did to go home to your family and your homework. Their conversations just keep going, all through the night."

In the Fairfax case, the kid was clearly out there. Blame technological change all you want, but even today, most teens wouldn't dare call a school administrator at home. Heck, most teens I know consider phone conversations as enticing as a bowl of anthrax. When it comes to speaking to anyone in authority, if they can't type it, they'd rather not say it. Kori was out to press some buttons.

So this is as much a matter of etiquette as digital revolution. Some readers think Kori will get his in a few years, when he's on the job market. Employers will Google him and toss his resume in the trash, one online commenter said. "Technology bytes both ways, kid."

Alas, that may be an overly optimistic reading. "That kind of chutzpah may reward him in a culture where people value that kind of cheeky behavior," McClain says.

(Begin optional trim)

Heaven help us. Or maybe teachers can still help. Julie Good, who runs a program at Richard Montgomery High School in Rockville, Md., that trains students interested in being teachers, agrees that boundaries have shifted but says that teachers who move in step with young people will usually be rewarded with civil and appropriate behavior.

"I give my kids my cellphone, my office phone, my home phone, my three e-mails and my Facebook," she says. "This is a 24-7 job, and I've never had a problem with kids abusing it." As for the YouTube posting in the Fairfax case, "Hey, it's called freedom of speech," Good says, reminding me that "at this age, impulse control hasn't kicked in fully."

Teachers these days must come to terms with seeing their performance scored on RateMyTeachers.com and having their in-class comments recorded on cellphone videos and posted on the Web.

"There is no privacy," Good says. "I had that lesson seared into me very early. I was teaching elementary school in the '60s and said something in class about the Vietnam War, and I had a parent call me out. Nothing has changed, except that you can disseminate it via YouTube."

If Tistadt "had just said, `Thank you for your call; I'll share this with my husband,' that would have been the end of it," Good says. "We all have a breaking point, but you can't break anymore without the rest of the world knowing about it."

The tools may be new, but the basics stay the same: Teens will use lousy judgment, and adults will have a choice: Let kids make mistakes even as you set and enforce clear boundaries, or leave them to wander like lost souls and then pay the consequences when a Devraj Kori grows up to become a Candy Tistadt.

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5 myths about recession

By KEVIN A. HASSETT
Special to The Washington Post

Kevin A. Hassett is director of economic policy studies and a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. His book Calling the Business Cycle, *co-authored with Marcelle Chauvet and James Hamilton, is forthcoming later this year. khassett@aei.org.*

When Scottish historian Thomas Carlyle branded economics the "dismal science" in 1849, he gave it a name that would stick. (Some theorize that he picked on economists since, like most Scots back then, Carlyle had never visited a dentist.) Fortunately for economists, 1849 was a pretty good year. If Carlyle had seen how economists behave during recessions, he probably would have dubbed their subject something far worse.

Economists have the same occupational hazard as baseball managers and football coaches: Every person on the street knows their job better than they do. And if you listened to the economic stimulus package talk last week from the White House and Capitol Hill, not to mention Federal Reserve Board Chairman Ben Bernanke, you could be forgiven for thinking that the recession is just around the corner. But the main result of all this chatter is that far too many myths about recessions have made their way into popular culture.

1. We're already in a recession.

The truth is, nobody knows. The responsibility for declaring the stages of the business cycle is informally held by that most dreaded of concepts—a committee of economists. The Business Cycle Dating Committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) uses a number of economic indicators, including personal income, unemployment, industrial production and sales and manufacturing volume, to determine the health of the economy. It's not true that they declare a recession if economic growth is negative for two quarters in a row. If it were that simple, we wouldn't need a committee.

If you want to know about the state of the economy in real time, you can't rely on the NBER. If the NBER did the D.C. weather forecast, here's how it would work. The bureau would gather precipitation data from every neighborhood, then interview residents to make sure that the data are accurate. After much deliberation, it would tell us whether it had rained last month. Same with recessions: The NBER's pronouncements historically come long after recessions have begun, a whopping seven months on average. By the time the bureau announced the recession of 1991, it had already ended.

Right now, we only have enough data to assess the economy accurately through last November. The best available real-time indicator of recession, a model developed by economist Marcelle Chauvet of the University of California at Riverside that has correctly called every postwar recession without ever giving a false signal, clearly indicates that the economy was not in recession in November. Things certainly have deteriorated since then, but it is an open question whether they have deteriorated enough. A recession may have started. Or it may not have.

2. The stock market tanks during recessions.

Not so. With the economy heading south during recessions, the conventional wisdom is that stock prices drop as well. Stocks usually drop before a recession, something that may be happening now. However, the market tends to look ahead and starts to respond favorably to the expected end of a recession long before it occurs. Influential economist Donald Luskin of Trend Macrolytics recently ran the numbers and found that stocks have produced an average return of 12.1 percent in post-World War II recessions. This is only slightly below the average return outside recessions.

3. Recessions used to be a lot worse.

Lunchroom economic conversations are inevitably graced with at least one statement from an old-timer along the lines of: "In my day, we walked 10 miles in the snow just to get to the recession." In fact, the nature of recessions hasn't changed much over the years.

Early economic studies seemed to confirm the view that the economy has become less volatile over time, with some estimates implying that the severity of recessions declined by 75 percent roughly around the end of World War II. However, a prominent study by University of California at Berkeley economist Christina D. Romer demonstrated that the problem really was that prewar data collectors had not advanced to the exalted level of data-geekdom of today's professionals. When important changes in data-collection methods and inconsistencies in the historical definition of the business cycle were accounted for, it emerged that recessions before World War I and since World War II have been just about equally severe.

While the past three recessions may have seen slightly smaller drops in economic growth on average, there is no guarantee that the next one—when it arrives—will be mild. The superstitious might even say that we are due for a whopper.

Recessions probably have become less frequent. In terms of duration, the average recession since World War II has lasted about a year. The past three recessions—in 1981-82, 1990-91 and 2001—lasted about a year as well.

One factor that has clearly not helped is government discretionary fiscal policy, like the economic stimulus packages currently being considered on Capitol Hill. You might think that the brilliant postwar discoveries of economists would have provided tax medicine to stop recessions in their tracks. In an exhaustive study, however, Romer and her husband, David, found that fiscal measures such as temporary tax rebates and government spending increases have failed to push the economy out of recession because they have been too small or too late, or both.

4. Recessions are bad for your health.

David Mamet once told an interviewer that he got the inspiration for his 1984 Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Glengarry Glen Ross" from an account of a salesman's fatal heart attack, caused by a recession "so vicious the competition was for jobs and sales, especially among older men." However, for most Americans, the story is quite the opposite. Americans get healthier as the economy gets worse. Unemployment tends to increase during recessions, but economist Christopher J. Ruhm of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro has found that a temporary one percentage point increase in the unemployment rate leads to a 0.5 to 0.6 percent reduction in the mortality rate, or about 14,000 fewer deaths per year.

Why the health benefits? With more free time and less money on their hands, people tend to consume less tobacco, exercise more, prepare healthier meals and lose weight. In addition, they are much less likely to have car and other accidents, and to catch communicable and sometimes fatal diseases such as influenza. Among the top 10 causes of death in the United States, only suicide rates show a substantial unemployment-driven increase. Even deaths caused by heart disease fall substantially.

5. There is a regular business cycle.

In a pair of articles in the Quarterly Journal of Economics published in 1920 and 1921, Columbia University economist H.L. Moore hypothesized that the primary cause of economic cycles was the regular eight-year cycle of the modes of the planet Venus. This type of thinking, along with 19th-century English economist William Stanley Jevons' theory that the 10-year sunspot cycle causes economic fluctuations, perhaps accounts for the widespread notion that there is a regular business cycle.

Don't count on it. The term "business cycle" is imprecise. Economic fluctuations affect everyone, not just businesses, and they are, unlike astral cycles, anything but regular. In the nine recessions since 1949, the shortest time between two recessions has been three quarters (the recessions of 1980 and 1981-82), while the longest has been just short of 10 years (the recessions of 1991 and 2001). When the next recession ends, a good guess will be that the expansion that follows will be somewhere between one year and 10 years in length.

A better analogy might be to think of our economic future as being a road trip in a 1971 Ford Pinto. Our car might burst into flames in the next instant, there might be a truck in our lane around the bend, or we just might make it all the way to California.

Letters to the Editor

The difference

To make things clear, I am addressing this letter to certain groups of residents: Those who do not welcome foreign workers on their islands after so many years of hard work, those who would see and treat us differently.

My New Year's resolution was to stop answering and writing letters to the editor. But I am hurt, not for myself, but for alien workers who have been described by some groups as "disrespectful."

Attack me personally, for I am vocal with my ideas and principles. But to attack the guest workers in general, that is foul and so I must write again!

When was the time guest workers showed disrespect for the indigenous people? When? Respect is gained, not asked!

When we work minimum wage, you call us "patay gutom" (desperate).

When you work for this rate, you are a hard worker.

When our US citizen children receives food stamps and Medicaid, they are a burden.

When your children receive these benefits, they deserve it!

When we share our time through community services, we should be doing it.

When locals are the one performing this, it's heroic!

When we march, speak and write, offer probable solutions and causes, we are disrespectful.

When you are the ones speaking and writing to the extent of hurting and insulting people, it's freedom of speech!

It is indeed legally permissible but morally unacceptable to attack guest workers as being disrespectful. We are more than 15,000 guest workers who are here and not even 1 percent of us have the nerve to say how we feel. If there are silent people in this community, it is them! That's the reason why some people like me speak out for them. I am in this group. I know, I see, I hear and feel them. Attack me personally for being vocal (if being vocal means being disrespectful) but do not generalize, for I am I and they are not me. Si Pedro is not si Juan!

Attack me, insult me, and hurt me for I am like a soldier! A soldier, when wounded, becomes braver! That's the virtue of a soldier!

There's no more provision to grant grandfathering for alien workers, so stop using us! We will go back to our homeland in the right time, when we are not needed anymore. But in the meantime, treat us and look at us as human beings with the same basic needs as you guys do.

And stop using and blaming us for things that did not come out the way you wanted it to.

We alien workers, parents of so many U.S. citizen children, will leave but our children who are 18 years old and above will remain and will continue doing what we have started. To fight for what is right! To live their lives in a legal manner and not forget the moral values with principles and love for every people of whatever nationality they come from. In time, there will be a lot of people like Rep. Yumul, with a parent who was a foreigner on this island, who will stand up and speak for those who cannot!

To our children, we are aliens here, but you are NOT. Please continue loving your friends and neighbors, and stand for what is right. For we will be the past and you are the future of the CNMI. You should not forget how some narrow-minded people see us, to use this as a guide to do what is right, not for revenge. We instilled in your heart the love for others; make it grow. But never allow yourselves to be downtrodden!

Malou Berueco
Gualo Rai

'Lest anyone forget'

Sam Joyner's eloquent remarks and observations to the newly installed Board of Education conveyed the feelings of most teachers forced to swallow the definition of what it means to be highly qualified. Mr. Joyner should be commended for resurrecting the Praxis problem and the arbitrary number adopted by the Board of Education as the signal for those who get to enter the Promised Land.

Lest anyone forget: Ambrose Bennett was seated as the Teacher Representative at the time the Board adopted the arbitrary threshold number that signaled passage of the Praxis test. When he failed to provide the Board with concrete facts establishing the arbitrariness of the number, the current pass rates were adopted. It was Mr. Bennett's insensitivity, inaction, and downright inattentiveness that led teachers to organize without him and attempt to undo what he allowed to happen. Notwithstanding his pathetic efforts to anoint himself as the teacher savior now, lest anyone forget: The salary decreases and Praxis pass rates were adopted during his watch. His last ditch effort to bypass procedures for the election of a teacher representative and to blame ACT for failing to get the Board to reconsider the salary decreases therefore come too little too late.

The newspapers don't elect teacher representatives, Mr. Bennett. Courts don't elect teacher representatives, either. Only teachers elect teacher representatives, Mr. Bennett, and the last time I looked, no exclusive bargaining representative of all teachers elected you.

Phyllis Ain
San Vicente, Saipan

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲84° ▼75°	▲82° ▼75°	▲84° ▼74°	▲84° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

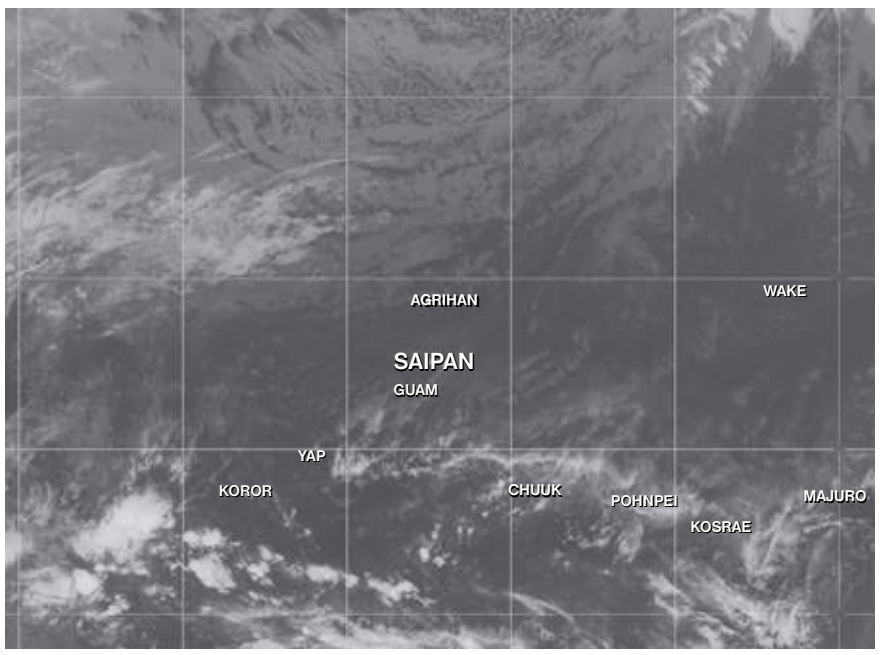
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲88	▼78
Palau	Sunny	▲90	▼77
Yap	Sunny	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Sunny	▲90	▼79
Pohnpei	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲84	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲74	▼63
Beijing	Partly Sunny	▲32	▼21
Hong Kong	Showers	▲63	▼59
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲80	▼67
London	Cloudy	▲52	▼39
Los Angeles	Rain	▲56	▼44
Manila	Partly Sunny	▲86	▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲86	▼67
Miami	Partly Sunny	▲76	▼63
New York	Cloudy	▲37	▼26
Osaka	Cloudy	▲40	▼27
Paris	Sunny	▲ 9	▼ 3
Pusan	Cloudy	▲48	▼33
Rome	Sunny	▲60	▼38
Salem	Rain	▲39	▼37
San Francisco	Rain	▲52	▼46
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲30	▼16
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲45	▼38
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲44	▼27

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, JAN. 25, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough extends from EQ130E to 2N155E to EQ165E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring along and north of the western portion of the trough west of Palau from 4N to 8N between 130E and 132E, and southeast of Palau along and up to 75 miles northeast of a line from 4N137E to 2N140E to 1N145E. A shear line extends from 23N180 to near Wake Island at 18N168E and then extends back to near 21N154E. Low-level cloudiness and scattered light showers are found along and up to 100 miles north of this boundary between 154E and 163E and from 172E to 180. Along the northwest corner of our discussion area, scattered showers and extensive low-level cloud cover exists within the cool northerly flow coming off of mainland China. This area is northwest of a cold front that runs from 25N145E to 19N130E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
04:09AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
10:46AM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
04:56PM Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
09:59PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47AM	6:12PM
Sunday	6:47AM	6:12PM
Monday	6:47AM	6:13PM
Tuesday	6:47AM	6:13PM
Wednesday	6:47AM	6:14PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:32PM	9:49PM*
Sunday	10:20PM	10:23AM*
Monday	11:08PM	10:59AM*
Tuesday	11:56PM	11:36AM*
Wednesday	11:56PM**	11:36AM

*Following Day **Preceding Day

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contribution are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 12, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Guam

CO9317	5:00am	5:50am	1,2,4,5,6,7
CO9597	8:30am	9:20am	1,2,5,6
CO9313	8:30am	10:00am	3,4,7 via Rota
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	Daily
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ 604	2:40am	6:30am	2,3,4,5,6,7
OZ 606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608	4:00am	7:35am	1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891	6:00am	10:30am	3 via Yap and Koror
CO 893	6:30am	8:05am	6
CO 893	8:25am	10:00am	2
CO 893	5:50pm	9:10pm	5 via Koror
CO 933	8:00pm	9:40pm	Daily
PR 111	6:00am	7:45am	1,2,4,6,7

Saipan-Manila

CO 895	4:45pm	6:35pm	6
CO 895	6:45pm	8:35pm	3

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078	8:30am	11:10am	Daily

Guam-Nagoya

CO 971	7:45am	10:30am	1,2,4,5,6,7
NW 023	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO 904	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078	8:30am	1:30pm	Daily via Nagoya
NW 075	4:55pm	7:30pm	Daily

Guam-Narita

JO 982	4:15am	7:00am	Daily
CO 961	7:20am	9:55am	Daily
CO 006	1:00pm	3:45pm	Daily
JO 942	3:30pm	6:15pm	Daily
NW 081	3:55pm	6:50pm	Daily
NW 073	4:15pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO 963	4:50pm	7:30pm	Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083	4:30pm	7:25pm	Daily

Saipan-Shanghai

MU 590	4:20am	7:00am	2,6

Guam-Hongkong

CO 910	7:45pm	10:40pm	1,5

Saipan-Guanzhou

CZ 3008	5:00am	8:00am	2,6

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313	8:30am	9:05am	3,4,7

Rota-Guam

CO 9313	9:30am	10:00am	3,4,7

ARRIVALS

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316	2:30am	3:20am	1,4,5,6,7
CO 9316	3:30am	4:20am	2
CO9596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
CO9598	10:15am	11:45am	1,2,6 via Rota
CO9600	10:45am	11:35am	3,4,5,7
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	Daily
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	2,3,4,5,6,7

Seoul-Saipan

OZ 605	9:00am	2:30pm	2,4,6,7
OZ 603	7:40pm	10:00am+1	7
OZ 603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1,2,3,4,5,6
OZ 607	6:50pm	2:50am+1	3,7 via Busan
OZ 607	7:30pm	2:50am+1	4 via Busan

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607	9:30pm	2:50am+1	3,4,6,7

Manila-Guam

CO 894	11:20am	4:55pm	2
CO 894	7:45pm	1:20am+1	6
CO 892	9:45pm	5:25am+1	3 via Koror
CO 892	9:45pm	6:30am+1	3 via Koror and Yap
CO 892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	5 via Koror
CO 934	11:10pm	4:40am+1	Daily
PR 110	10:15pm	4:00am+1	1,3,5,6,7

Manila-Saipan

CO 890	9:15am	2:55pm	6
CO 890	11:45am	5:35pm	3

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077	8:45pm	1:10am+1	Daily

Nagoya-Guam

NW 024	10:00am	2:40pm	Daily
CO 970	11:30am	4:00pm	Daily
CO 905	8:25pm	12:50am+1	1,3,4,5,6,7

Narita-Saipan

NW 076	10:35am	3:05pm	Daily
NW 077	6:15pm	1:10am+1	Daily via Nagoya

Narita-Guam

JO 941	9:30am	2:05pm	Daily
NW 074	9:45am	2:25pm	Daily
CO 962	11:05am	3:35pm	Daily
CO 007	5:15pm	9:50pm	Daily
NW 082	8:30pm	1:15am+1	Daily
CO 964	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
JO 981	9:30pm	2:05am+1	Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084	10:40am	3:10pm	Daily

Shanghai-Saipan

MU 589	8:05am	3:00am+1	1,5

Hongkong-Guam

CO 910	11:40pm	6:20am+1	1,5

Guanzhou-Saipan

CZ 3007	8:00pm	4:00am+1	1,5

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598	11:10am	11:45am	1,2,6

Guam-Rota

CO 9598	10:15am	10:45am	1,2,6

(Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana. ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Thursday: 5:30am (Tagalog); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
8:00 AM Choir Rehearsal
9:00 AM Family Worship
3:00 PM Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays at Parsonage
7:00 PM Prayer, Share and Care

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church (Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am
Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon
English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

JANUARY 26, 1999

US federal takeover plan rejected
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday the Northern Marianas is still capable of implementing reforms and vowed to maintain control of minimum wage and immigration amid plans of Washington to introduce a new proposal on federal takeover of these commonwealth functions. Negotiations aimed at resolving CNMI and US differences in addressing problems arising from local labor and immigration policies bogged down last week due to irreconcilable positions of the two governments. White House representatives to the Section 902 consultations, unconvinced that commonwealth officials can reform labor and immigration, say they will draft a new legislation to put these functions under federal authority.

JAL, tour operators oppose hiked fees
Japan Saipan Travel Association and Japan Airlines have objected to the plan of the Commonwealth Ports Authority to increase airport fees because this will contribute to the downturn of the island's tourism economy. Kiyoshi Aikawa, president of JSTA, said the increase in airport fees would be passed on to consumers, pushing travelers to choose cheaper destinations such as Hawaii, Guam and Bali, Indonesia. Instead of raising fees, Aikawa said all efforts must be geared toward satisfying the tourist at a lower cost and promote the Visit the Marianas '99 Campaign.

JANUARY 26, 2000

Teno will not appeal court ruling on AG
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ruled out the possibility of appealing a Superior Court decision that ordered him to appoint a permanent Attorney General, saying he has no choice but to comply with the law. At the same time, he promised he will definitely submit by next week to the Senate his nomination for the position from a short list of likely candidates whom he said are willing to help his administration. In his first interview since the court handed down the ruling on Jan. 20, Tenorio stressed that he had been vocal In his intention to name a new chief government lawyer in place of acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara even before it came out.

Govt cuts travel expenses by 22%
Overall actual travel expenses by the government exceeded its Fiscal Year 1999 allotment by a little over $1 million, although it dropped by 22 percent from $4.6 million in FY 1998 to $3.6 million, a report from the Office of the Governor showed. According to the report, government-wide allotment for travel during the last fiscal year was $2.507 million while overall expenditures reached $3.605 million. The executive branch managed to cut its travel expenses from $3.5 million in FY 1998 to $2.6 million last year, of which, 57 percent or at least $1.5 million was for medical referral.

JANUARY 26, 2001

DLNR tightens monitoring of meat imports
Quarantine officials have been asked to remain vigilant on the possible entry of meat coming from countries other than the mainland US, especially from areas hit by the mad cow disease. Lands and Natural Resources Special Assistant for Correspondences Marianne Teregeyo said quarantine officers stationed at various Commonwealth airports and seaports were advised to strictly enforce existing procedures due to reports of mad cow contamination cases in several European countries.

Occupancy rate improves in 2000
Average hotel occupancy rate in 2000 was 61.23 percent, a slight increase from the 60.44 percent average occupancy record in 1999, according to the Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands. This was the first time that average hotel occupancy rate posted an increase in the last three years. In December 2000 alone, the hotel occupancy rate was 57.37 percent, a four percent decline from the 61.16 percent registered in the same period of the previous year.

JANUARY 26, 2003

Water regs violation rampant'
Division of Environmental Quality Director John I. Castro Jr. said Friday that none of the Commonwealth's public water systems have been fully compliant with drinking water regulations, since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency delegated the authority of enforcement on the DEQ 10 years ago. Calling the situation as potential public health risk, Castro disclosed the DEQ is bent on achieving 100-percent compliance in a year's span by implementing measures such as the mandatory collection of monetary penalties against violators. He also said the DEQ would designate an enforcement coordinator to quickly initiate and complete enforcement cases.

Business

Wall Street extends rebound

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street scored its second straight big advance Thursday after economic figures suggested the job market is holding up and as lawmakers agreed on measures that could ease concerns about consumer spending. The Dow Jones industrials rose more than 100 points, bringing its two-day gain to more than 400.

While stocks fluctuated throughout the session, trading was decidedly more calm than on Wednesday, when Wall Street executed a stunning turnaround that transformed a sharp sell-off into big gains for stocks. Thursday's rise was notable, however, as investors will often move in a day after a rally or plunge to take profits or scoop up bargains. That the buying largely continued was a positive sign, observers said.

Investors were clearly interested in buying, but despite the size of the advance, there didn't appear to be much conviction to it - the market is still searching for clues about the economy in hopes of determining whether it will soon pick up or will continue to slow and tip into recession.

Oil prices near $90 a barrel

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) -- Oil futures rose Friday in Asia to extend a gain of more than $2 a barrel after U.S. leaders agreed to a stimulus plan in an effort to avert a major slowdown in the world's largest economy.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery rose 39 cents to $89.80 a barrel in Asian electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract gained $2.42 to settle at $89.41 a barrel in the floor session.

Prices were also boosted Thursday after the U.S. government reported a drop in heating oil supplies.

But the overnight gains really accelerated - with oil posting its largest rise in over three weeks - on word that the Bush administration and Congressional leaders had reached an agreement on an economic stimulus package.

Traders have bet that the tax rebates of $600 to $1,200 that are part of the package will boost oil demand.

Meanwhile, the weekly inventory report from the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration showed stocks of distillates, which include heating oil and diesel fuel, fell 1.3 million barrels last week. Analysts surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires had said, on average, distillate supplies would remain unchanged.

Societe Generale uncovers massive fraud

PARIS (AP)—In what appears to be the largest trading fraud ever carried out by a single person, a young trader at French bank Societe Generale is accused of making unauthorized bets on stock markets that cost the bank nearly $7.2 billion but may not have netted him a cent.

Kerviel

The bank called the fraud "exceptional in its size and nature," and said it apparently went undetected for more than a year by its own multilayered security systems.

It would place the young trader, identified as 31-year-old Jerome Kerviel, atop the pantheon of rogue traders for a scheme from which bank executives said he apparently did not make a personal profit.

Societe Generale Chief Executive Daniel Bouton said Kerviel's motivations were "totally irrational" but gave no further clues to his motive.

The bank, France's second-largest, said Thursday it had learned of the fraud last weekend. And the timing could not have been worse: The bank was forced to sell Kerviel's contracts just as stock markets were plunging worldwide. It took the bank three days to unload them.

Microsoft tops Q2, PC sales up

SEATTLE (AP) -- Microsoft Corp. forecast a rosy 2008 - despite broader economic worries - after it blew by Wall Street's expectations for a second consecutive quarter.

"We will be impacted just like everybody else," if the U.S. falls into a recession, Chief Financial Officer Chris Liddell said Thursday. "But overall, we feel very optimistic about our second half."

Company officials touted rising sales in each of Microsoft's business divisions, a slate of important upcoming business-software launches and the growing contribution from sales in non-U.S. markets.

Microsoft raised its outlook Thursday for the rest of its fiscal year, which ends in June, matching Wall Street's forecast and sending shares up in after-hours trading.

The software maker's quarterly earnings jumped 79 percent to $4.71 billion, or 50 cents per share, from $2.63 billion, or 26 cents per share in the second quarter a year earlier. Quarterly revenue climbed 31 percent to $16.37 billion from $12.5 billion.

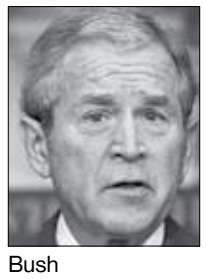
Nation

Tax rebate deal could mean checks by May

WASHINGTON (AP) -- With unprecedented speed and cooperation, Congress and the White House forged a deal Thursday to begin rushing tax rebates of $600 to $1,200 to most tax filers by spring, hoping they will spend the money just as quickly and jolt the ailing economy to life.

Rebates would be even higher for families with children.

The one-time tax rebates are at the center of a hard-won agreement to pump about $150 billion into the economy this year and perhaps stave off the first recession since 2001. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Republican leader John Boehner and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson worked out the details in negotiations that stretched into Wednesday night at the Capitol.


Bush

About two-thirds of the tax relief would go out in rebate checks to 117 million families beginning in May. Businesses would get $50 billion in incentives to invest in new plants and equipment.

Individual taxpayers would get up to $600 in rebates, working couples $1,200 and those with children an additional $300 per child under the agreement. In a key concession to Democrats, 35 million families who make at least $3,000 but don't pay taxes would get $300 rebates.

The rebates would phase out gradually for individuals whose adjusted gross income exceeds $75,000 and for couples with incomes above $150,000. Contributions to IRA and 401(k) retirement accounts and health savings accounts would not count toward the income limit.

"This package will lead to higher consumer spending and increased business investment," Bush said in hailing the agreement.

The bill will go straight to the House floor next week and on to the Senate, where some Democrats hope to add elements such as extending unemployment benefits for workers whose benefits have run out.

Indeed, many Democrats, such as Ways and Means Committee Chairman Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts, the liberal lion of the Senate, were deeply unhappy that Pelosi agreed to jettison that proposal in late-stage talks, as well as plans to increase food stamp payments.

"I do not understand, and cannot accept, the resistance of President Bush and Republican leaders to including an extension of unemployment benefits for those who are without work through no fault of their own," Rangel said.

The administration signaled it's unlikely to welcome efforts to broaden the measure, and pressure was mounting in the Senate to accept the hard-won deal.

"The American people are not going to have a lot of patience for taking time," Paulson said.

AP

Republican presidential hopefuls line up on stage prior to the start of their debate at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, Fla. Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008. Left to right are former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., former NewYork City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Rep. Ron Paul, R-Texas, and former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee.

GOP rivals depict Clinton as unworthy

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) -- Republican presidential contenders depicted Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton as weak on Iraq and certain to raise taxes Thursday night, setting aside their own campaign debate squabbles long enough to agree that she is unworthy of the White House.

"She is so out of step with the American people," said former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, joined by Sen. John McCain and Rudy Giuliani in criticizing the former first lady.

The chorus of criticism came as Republicans strived to present their credentials as advocates of tax cuts, particularly to head off the threat of recession. They generally agreed that the newly minted, bipartisan economic stimulus package was a good start but did not go far enough.

"I will vote for it," said McCain, the only contender on stage with a Senate seat. He quickly added he wants the tax cuts President Bush won from Congress in 2001 and 2003 to be made permanent.

Former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee and Texas Rep. Ron Paul shared the debate stage, five days before the Florida primary that is the latest pivot point in the battle for the Republican presidential nomination.

The 90-minute debate featured a series of remarkably blunt questions to the five candidates on stage.

Giuliani was asked why his poll numbers are deteriorating in Florida, a state where he has devoted two weeks to campaigning. With a smile, he said he was like the New York Giants, the professional football team that made its way through a turbulent season and will play in the Super Bowl.

McCain was asked about his own mother's statement that he lacked support from certain elements of the Republican Party. He said - despite primary day polls that showed otherwise - that he won the Republican vote in the New Hampshire and South Carolina primaries, then pivoted to add that he won the support of independents as well.

"They know I'll put my country ahead of my party every time," he added, attempting to portray himself as more electable than his rivals in the general election.

Moussaoui tipster gets $5M reward

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Bush administration paid a $5 million reward to a former Minnesota flight instructor who provided authorities with information that led to the arrest and conviction of 9/11 conspirator Zacarias Moussaoui. Two colleagues questioned why he got the money.

The recipient, Clarence Prevost, was honored Thursday at a closed-door ceremony at the State Department, although the payout was secretly authorized last fall by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and the Justice Department, U.S. officials told The Associated Press.

The reward from the State Department's "Rewards for Justice" program is the first and only one to date to a U.S. citizen related to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the officials said.

It is also unusual because Moussaoui, who was imprisoned at the time of the attacks, was never named as a wanted suspect by the program. The program mainly seeks information about perpetrators or planners of terrorist acts against U.S. interests and citizens abroad.

The State Department would not identify the recipient, citing privacy and security concerns.

Two administration officials, however, said the reward went to Prevost, a key witness at Moussaoui's trial who has previously spoken out about his involvement in the case. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the matter.

Prevost, 69, is a former Navy pilot who later flew for Northwest Airlines and goes by his nickname "Clancy." He was Moussaoui's flight instructor at the Pan Am International Flight Academy outside Minneapolis.

No one answered at an apartment listed for Clarence Prevost in a residential hotel in Coral Gables, Fla., an upscale Miami suburb. Calls to a number listed to Prevost were not answered.

Treasure hunters in dispute with Spain

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) -- The playground legal principle "Finders keepers, losers weepers" is being put to the test in an international dispute over what could be the richest sunken treasure ever found: 17 tons of silver coins brought up from a centuries-old shipwreck.

A Florida treasure-hunting company, Odyssey Marine Exploration, found the wreck at the bottom of the Atlantic and argues that the age-old law of the high seas entitles the finders to most or all of the booty, said to be worth around $500 million.

But the government of Spain suspects the ship was Spanish and says it has never expressly abandoned any of its vessels lost at sea. The kingdom has made it clear that if the treasure does have some connection to Spain, it wants every last coin returned.

The case is being closely watched because there could be more disputes like it, now that sonar, remote-control submersible robots and deep-sea video are enabling treasure hunters like Odyssey to find ships that went to the bottom centuries ago and were written off as unrecoverable because no one could even imagine finding anything so far beneath the waves.

"The question is, just because you're the first one out there to get it, should you get to keep it - especially if it belongs to someone else?" said James Delgado, director of the Institute of Nautical Archaeology at Texas A&M University and a critic of commercial treasure hunters.

For now, the spoils—some 500,000 coins, enough to fill 552 plastic buckets—are in Odyssey's possession, tucked away in a warehouse somewhere in Tampa.

Detroit mayor sends steamy text messages

DETROIT (AP)—Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick bristled in the witness chair last year when asked whether he had an affair with a top aide. No, the mayor confidently told jurors, the two were never romantically involved.

But a trove of 14,000 text messages that emerged this week tell a different story: The mayor and his chief of staff carried on a flirty, sometimes sexually explicit dialogue about where to meet and how to conceal their numerous trysts.

Kilpatrick

Now the mayor's indiscretion has landed him in a Clinton-style scandal that could cost him his job and his law license and even bring perjury charges.

"I think the mayor needs to take responsibility for the situation," City Councilwoman Sheila Cockrel said Thursday. In politics, she said, "you operate in a fishbowl."

The Detroit Free Press did not explain exactly how it obtained the messages, which were sent or received in 2002-03 from Chief of Staff Christine Beatty's city-issued pager. The newspaper said it cross-referenced the messages with the mayor's private calendar and credit card records to verify events in some of the notes.

The mayor's denial came last summer during testimony in a lawsuit filed by two police officers who alleged they were fired for investigating claims from two former bodyguards that the mayor used his security unit to cover up extramarital affairs.

Mike Stefani, a lawyer for the officers, asked Beatty if she and Kilpatrick were "either romantically or intimately involved" during the period covered by the case.

Asia

US willing to send troops to Pakistan

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Bush administration is willing to send a small number of U.S. combat troops to Pakistan to help fight the insurgency there if Pakistani authorities ask for such help, Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday.

"We remain ready, willing and able to assist the Pakistanis and to partner with them to provide additional training, to conduct joint operations, should they desire to do so," Gates told a news conference.

Gates said the Pakistani government has not requested any additional assistance in the weeks since al-Qaida and affiliated extremists have intensified their fighting inside Pakistan. And he stressed that the United States would respect the Pakistanis' judgment on the utility of American military assistance.

"We're not aware of any proposals that the Pakistanis have made to us at this point," he said. "This is clearly an evolving issue. And what we have tried to communicate to the Pakistanis and essentially what we are saying here is we are prepared to look at a range of cooperation with them in a number of different areas, but at this point it's their nickel, and we await proposals or suggestions from them."

Doctors optimistic Suharto will survive

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) —Doctors treating former Indonesian dictator Suharto said Friday he could be released from intensive care within a couple days after breathing on his own and beating back a blood infection.

The 86-year-old has been in the hospital for three weeks, suffering from multiple organ failure, pneumonia and sepsis, a potentially lethal blood infection that is particularly dangerous for the elderly and critically ill patients.

Although his condition has fluctuated and he was still receiving a blood transfusion and on dialysis for failing kidneys, his physicians said they were "optimistic" he would soon be out of critical condition, said Dr. Marjo Subiandono, head of the presidential medical team.

9 police killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —Hundreds of Afghans chanted anti-American slogans to protest the deaths of nine policemen who local officials said were killed Thursday in an anti-Taliban operation by U.S.-led coalition troops.

The coalition denied killing the policemen. A spokesman said four insurgents were killed and nine were detained in the mission in central Afghanistan.

The officers, including a district police chief, died in Ghazni province during the raid by U.S. ground forces and airstrikes, said a provincial official, Habeb-ul Rahman. Two civilians also died, he said.

"This morning around 3:30 a.m., coalition forces launched an operation north of Ghazni," said Abdullah Nashir, the spokesman for the province's governor. "Unfortunately we got reports that second district commander Kamyab along with eight other police were

SKorean leader apologizes for killings

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)— South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun apologized Thursday for the killings by police and troops of more than 800 citizens in the early months of the 1950-53 Korean War.

The then-government of President Rhee Syng-man had at least 870 people shot in Ulsan in the country's southeast in August 1950, three months after the outbreak of the Korean War following the communist North's invasion.

Those killed were members of an organization known as Bodoyeonmaeng, formed by the government with people who had past records of left-wing activity and part of a government drive to clean the country of communism.

ASIAN BRIEFS

18 killed in China train accident

BEIJING (AP)—A train ran into group of railway workers in eastern Shandong province, killing 18 and injuring nine others, officials said Friday. The accident happened Wednesday when the workers were replacing railway tracks near Anqiu city, the State Administration of Work Safety said in a notice on its Web site. The high-speed passenger train was traveling from Beijing to the port city Qingdao in Shandong. No other details were given.

Japan cracks down on abusive police

TOKYO (AP)—No beatings. No threats. No overnight interrogations. Facing mounting accusations of brutality, Japan's National Police set their first-ever guidelines for questioning methods Thursday in an attempt to rein in agents who go too far in pressuring suspects to confess. The new rules are the first serious step by the police to change their methods, which have long been criticized at home and abroad for relying too much on confessions—often coerced—rather than on evidence. The role of confessions has been a cornerstone of a criminal justice system in which more than 99 percent of cases that go to trial result in convictions, and judges are much more lenient in sentencing defendants who have confessed.

Myanmar poet arrested for critical poem

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A Myanmar poet known for his odes to love was arrested after penning a Valentine's Day poem that carried a hidden message criticizing the leader of the country's military junta, Senior Gen. Than Shwe, colleagues said Thursday. The poet, Saw Wai, was arrested Tuesday, a day after his poem "February 14" was published in the popular weekly entertainment magazine "A Chit," or "Love," according to friends and colleagues who spoke on condition of anonymity fearing reprisals. The eight-line poem in Burmese is about a man brokenhearted after falling for a fashion model, whom he thanks for having taught him the meaning of love. But if read vertically, the first word of each line forms the phrase: "Power crazy Senior General Than Shwe."

Chemicals taint water in China, 26 ill

BEIJING (AP)—Sulfuric acid leaked into the water supply from a chemical factory in central China, poisoning at least 26 villagers, authorities said Thursday. An underground pipe broke at the factory—part of the Xiaoping coal mine complex in Banqiao town in Hunan province's Chenxi county—causing the chemical leak into groundwater supplies, said Yang Changyou of the Chenxi information office. "There are 26 people seriously poisoned and hospitalized, and more than 200 villagers are receiving free medical checkups, but no one died in the accident," Yang said. The government was providing free bottled water and water from four fire engines, he said, adding that authorities were trying to track and contain the leak.

World

Provincial police chief killed in Mosul

BAGHDAD (AP)—A suicide bomber killed an Iraqi police chief and two other officers Thursday as they surveyed the site of the wreckage of a blast a day earlier that devastated a predominantly Sunni neighborhood in the volatile northern city of Mosul.

The casualty toll from Wednesday's explosion rose to at least 34 dead and 224 injured, said Hisham al-Hamdani, the head of the Ninevah provincial council. The blast obliterated a three-story apartment building and ravaged adjacent houses just minutes after the Iraqi army arrived to investigate tips about a weapons cache.

Brig. Gen. Salah Mohammed al-Jubouri, the police chief for surrounding Ninevah province, was killed as he left the blast site after being confronted by an angry crowd shouting "Allahu Akbar" or "God is Great" while he inspected damage near the crater.

Italian premier resigns after vote loss

ROME (AP)—Italian Premier Romano Prodi resigned Thursday after his center-left coalition narrowly lost a Senate confidence vote, a humiliating end to a 20-month-old government plagued by infighting.

Italy—which has has now seen 61 governments fall since World War II—faces the prospect of early elections or efforts to form another government, a decision that must be made by President Giorgio Napolitano. Prodi will stay on in the meantime in a caretaker role.

Elected in April 2006, Prodi had a shaky government from nearly the start. It lurched toward collapse this week after a small Christian Democrat party, whose votes were vital to his Senate majority, yanked its support in the latest coalition spat.

Ex-UN chief gets Kenyan rivals to meet

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)— Kenya's president and his chief rival held talks Thursday for the first time since last month's disputed election, under international pressure to find a way to share power. But the president angered the opposition by insisting his position as head of state was not negotiable.

President Mwai Kibaki and opposition leader Raila Odinga met for about an hour in the presence of former U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who succeeded where other mediators failed in getting the men to sit down together. Since the Dec. 27 vote, at least 685 people have been killed in riots and ethnic fighting and some 255,000 people have been forced from their homes.

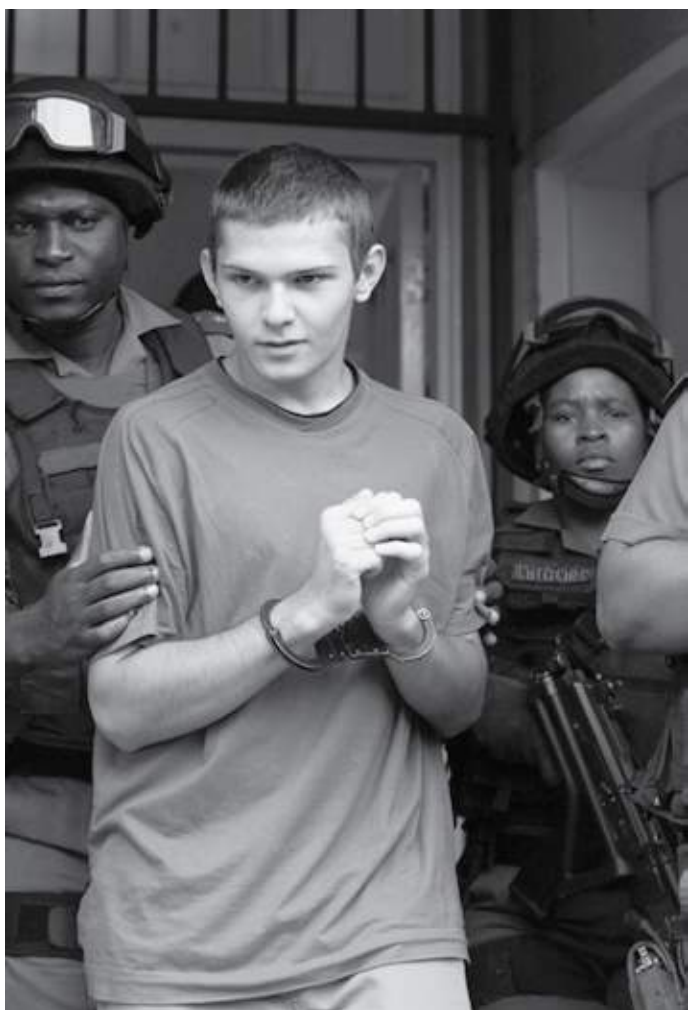
UN powers agree on more Iran sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— Major U.N. Security Council powers have agreed on an incremental increase in sanctions on Iran, including a new restriction on exporters doing business with the country, diplomats said Thursday.

A draft resolution also calls for more monitoring of Iran's military and financial institutions, broader travel bans on Iranian nuclear scientists and other key officials, and freezing the assets of people and banks linked to weapons proliferation, Security Council diplomats told The Associated Press.

Diplomats from the five nations with veto power on the council—the U.S., Russia, China, Britain and France—spent a third day negotiating a final agreement on principles that would form the basis for a third round of U.N. sanctions on Iran. They were joined by Germany, which has long been involved in efforts to resolve the Iran nuclear dispute.

The general terms were hammered out in Berlin earlier this week, chiefly through negotiations between U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. Those elements have been closely held, though they have begun circulating among the rest of the 15-member council.



AP

Johan Nel, is escorted by South African police after appearing at the Swartruggens Magistrate's Court, west of Johannesburg, South Africa, Thursday, Jan. 24 2008.

Rampage starts race row

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)—Protesters tried to force their way into the court hearing Thursday of a white teenager charged with a shooting rampage in a black settlement that left four people dead, including a mother and her infant.

The bloodshed on Jan. 14 in the Skielik settlement, 100 miles northwest of Johannesburg, has ignited racial tensions that remain close to the surface more than a decade after the end of South Africa's apartheid system.

Riot police were called in to control the dozens of black protesters who gathered outside the Swartruggens District Court, trying to push through the compound gates as 18-year-old Johan Nel made a brief appearance inside. He faces charges of murder and attempted murder.

The crowd waved signs saying " no bail, let him rot in jail," the South African Press Association reported. Police pushed the group was pushed to the side of the street.

Police are unclear on a motive, but Skielik's residents allege that Nel killed out of racial hatred. Leaders of the trade union movement and African National Congress have joined demonstrations in Skielik, which is part of an area known for its game reserves, biting rural poverty and deep divide between black and white.

Maharlika – PinoyNews

RP ratings outlook hiked from 'stable' to 'positive'

MANILA (AFP)—Moody's Investors Service has raised its outlook on Philippine ratings to positive from stable, citing the government's easing dependence on external financing.

"Improved macroeconomic conditions and fiscal performance are mutually reinforcing each other," said Moody's senior vice president Tom Byrne in a statement released in Manila Friday.

The ratings include long-term government foreign and local-currency ratings, foreign-currency bank deposit ceiling and foreign currency country ceiling.

Byrne said a stronger Philippine peso and lower domestic interest rates have significantly lowered debt service payments "freeing budgetary resources for much-needed infrastructure spending, which is helping to resuscitate the long-languishing levels of investment in the country's economy."

"The government has not masked inflation by subsidizing retail petroleum prices, thereby avoiding contingent fiscal liabilities and adding pressure on the balance of payments by encouraging higher oil imports," said Byrne.

"This policy also avoids running into political problems down the road, if subsidies were to become too costly and needed to be rolled back," he said.

AP

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM
Swiss president Pascal Couchepin, right, speaks with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, left, during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum, WEF, in Davos, Switzerland, Thursday, Jan 24, 2008. Top business leaders, heads of state from around the world as well as representatives of NGOs will gather here until Sunday, Jan. 27.

Peso climbs to 41.18 to $1

MANILA—The peso closed at 41.18 to the dollar Thursday, near the day's low of 41.25, climbing up for the second straight day after the US Federal Reserve made a surprised cut in its interest rates.

The peso opened trading near the day's peak of 41.04 to the greenback, but its gains were soon limited by continuing concerns on the health of the United States economy.

Even as the financial markets turned jittery, the peso still gained by 0.07 per dollar against Wednesday's closing rate.

The volume of trading on the spot market amounted to $626 million.

At a news briefing, HSBC economist Frederic Neumann said the peso would likely remain strong for the remainder

of the year and settle at 37.20 to the dollar at yearend on the back of strong remittances from overseas Filipino workers.

"I don't think the peso has hit a threshold where the economy is hurting," Neumann said. "At 41, the peso is not inherently overvalued. Remittances are offsetting trade deficit ... there's no reason to say it can't appreciate."

Neumann said for as long as the US Fed cut its interest rates, Asian central banks, including the Philippine central bank, would have to follow suit in order to temper the influx of foreign speculative portfolio investments.

"It's important to send that message: Don't get too tempted to park funds here," he said.

Neumann said that after hitting 37.20 to the greenback at end-2008 the peso would unlikely gain much further in 2009. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Tourism department targets Fil-Am market via Web

By LAWRENCE CASIRAYA
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—The Department of Tourism is finally realizing the power of the Internet in attracting more tourists to visit the country.

In an interview with Inquirer.net, DOT secretary Robert Ace Durano said it has been actively using the Internet as a marketing medium to reach the North American market.

"I would say 90 percent of our marketing resources there are already devoted to the Internet and the rest for traditional media like TV," Durano said.

DOT launched its "Travel Mall" portal, which can be found in its Experience Philippines website.

Tourists planning on a trip to the Philippines can "window shop" through travel packages offered by DOT-accredited travel agencies and operators in North America, categorized according to destination, trip duration and price range.

Durano was referring to the US and Canada, both of which have large Filipino-American communities that the DOT would like to tap into as a potential tourism market.

He said: "We are targeting the 25- to 35-year-old demographic. Research shows that in the US, for example, people who belong to this group spend more time on the Internet than TV whether at home or at work."

AP

LABOR PROTEST
An activist blocks motorists at the South Luzon Expressway in suburban Bicutan, south of Manila, Philippines, on Thursday Jan. 24, 2008. Hundreds of retrenched toll employees and activists held a rally to protest the dismissal of workers from their permanent jobs following the change of management.

? LABOR FRONT

The controversial Public Law 15-108

By FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Public Law 15-108 imposes a periodic exit requirement on all persons who enter the Commonwealth for employment. When should an alien worker exit the CNMI?

A: According to the new Employment Rules and Regulations, an alien worker must exit the CNMI within three years of the date on which the worker entered the Commonwealth. The worker must remain outside the CNMI for at least six consecutive months.

■ ■ ■

Q: Who are the employers allowed to repatriate their guest workers for 60 consecutive days instead of six consecutive months?

A: Employers who have complied with the requirements of a section of P.L. 15-108 with respect to citizen and permanent resident participation in their full-time workforce are considered to have met the primary objective of the periodic exit requirement.

For that reason, according to the Regulations, these employers may satisfy the periodic exit requirement by repatriating their foreign national workers for 60 consecutive days rather than six consecutive months.

These employers, however, must submit to the Department of Labor a consent document signed by the alien worker acknowledging permanent residence in the country that issued the worker's passport and no change in status by reason of employment in the CNMI.

■ ■ ■

Q: Are the employers of domestic helpers and farmers allowed to repatriate these workers for 60 days?

A: Non-business employers who have hired domestic helpers, farmers, household maintenance workers or yard workers may utilize the 60-day alternative.

According to the Regulations, statistical analyses by the Labor's Division of Employment Services demonstrate that these jobs, although advertised and open to U.S. citizens and permanent residents, are very rarely filled by persons other than foreign national workers.

The regulations also states that foreign workers employed by non-business employers facilitate the holding of jobs by U.S. citizens and permanent residents and maintenance of residences by foreign investors all of which benefits the CNMI economy.

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RP sees strong demand for overseas labor

MANILA—The global demand for Filipino workers will remain strong despite fears of a recession in the United States, a labor official said Thursday.

Many foreign countries, particularly developed countries, are still approaching the Philippines wanting to recruit Filipino workers, particularly skilled laborers and professionals, said Rosalinda Baldoz, administrator of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

"Foreign employers come to us because they are short of skilled workers and their nationals refuse to handle the dirty, dangerous and difficult jobs," Baldoz told local reporters.

Even in the United States, where there are fears of a looming recession, Baldoz said they see a growing demand for temporary workers in hotels as well as nurses.

Middle Eastern countries also need thousands of foreign workers due to heightened economic activity there, she added.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman will offer job opportunities in the construction, medical, retail, energy engineers and planners, telecommunications, hotel and restaurant and the information technology (IT) sectors, she said.

East Asia, South Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia will continue to hire Filipinos for the construction and ship building sectors, factory workers, IT and healthcare, managers and supervisors for the gaming industry.

Arroyo okays sacking of 20 appointees

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC, JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Malacañang Thursday served notice it was firing or transferring to other offices about 20 presidential appointees, even as state workers slammed a planned overhaul of the bureaucracy, warning that tens of thousands of civil servants would lose their jobs.

Deputy presidential spokesperson Lorelei Fajardo said President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had approved in principle the termination of some presidential advisers and the reassignment of several others working in the Palace to their mother units or "line agencies." Ms Arroyo is expected to sign the order when she returns from Switzerland, where she is attending an economic forum of world leaders, Malacañang said.

"There was a verbal agreement between Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and President Arroyo regarding that," Fajardo said at a press conference.

She declined to name names but described the "15 to 20" as presidential assistants and advisers "and some assistant secretaries."

She said the reasons cited by Ermita were bad performance and/or duplication of functions.

The Malacañang announcement came two days after Civil Service Commission (CSC) head Karina David denounced the "worsening politicization" of the bureaucracy, which David said was "bloated with excess officials."

Ermita recommended the termination of some presidential advisers and the reassignment of others in a memorandum sent to the President before she left for Davos.

Fajardo denied that the move was part of the proposed rationalization of the bureaucracy as suggested by David.

"We have our evaluation, our own standard such as submission of our year-end report. That could be a basis to evaluate our performance," said Fajardo.

She said that a "study" was conducted by Ermita's office even "before this issue came up with Chairman David."

"We found out also that there are a lot of PAs (presidential assistants) who are working for different agencies but their items are here in the Office of the President," said Fajardo.

She disputed David's accusation that the Chief Executive had abused her prerogative on government appointees.

"It's the prerogative of the President. But experience-wise, they have leadership trainings. All of them are most qualified to be in (their positions)," she said.

420,000 targeted

About 200 government employees marched in protest around Elliptical Road in Quezon City to denounce the projected "rationalization" of the bureaucracy, which is called for under Executive Order No. 366.

The protest organizer, the Confederation of Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage), claimed as many 420,000 employees -- out of the total 1.4 million regular and casual government workers nationwide -- were being targeted under the EO, which Ms Arroyo issued in 2004.

'No mass layoffs'

The group's figure was based on its estimate that up to 30 percent of the work force in every government agency would be affected by the rationalization order.

That figure has been disputed by CSC officials who said the EO does not call for mass layoffs.

IN THREE MONTHS

ATO to ask FAA to reconsider RP aviation safety rating

By KRIS ANNE ALCANTARA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA—Malacañang is confident the US Federal Aviation Authority will find "significant improvements" in government's safety oversight functions over Philippine aviation in three months time.

During the taping on Thursday of "The Cabinet Speaks," a government television show, Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza said that local aviation authorities' safety oversight rating could be upgraded back to Category 1 and that "substantial compliance" with US FAA requirements will be met.

He said the Air Transport Office can't be expected to fully comply with the FAA demands in such a short time, but will still ask the FAA to reevaluate the country's ratings after the period.

"We must abide by their interpretation to have a good (rating)," he said.

Mendoza, who was designated last week by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as acting chief of the ATO, said that seven out of 10 items in the airworthiness category have already been achieved.

Further issues of concern to be addressed include the improved training of pilots to match international standards, the computerization and integration of records including information on pilots' credentials and the hiring of qualified inspectors to license pilots and check the airworthiness of carriers.

But he said that the passage in Congress of the law creating the Civil Aviation Authority is imperative.

The continued training of pilots is a specific issue of concern, particularly with the launch of the Airbus 380 in addition to the continual upgrading of carriers, he said.

He said one of the requirements set by the FAA is for Philippine pilots to be trained under international standards although due to the length of the training time and expense, this may not take place until after the proposed three-month period, as with the Civil Aviation Law.

Mendoza reported that the FAA was willing to send consultants to help craft the law, and to issue technical advice and work with the ATO in the future.

Mendoza said that while safety was an issue, security was not.

He said that the ATO "passes airport security" and is at par with international standards.

Mendoza added that the FAA was only concerned with the safety of Philippine carriers flying or intending to fly the trans-Pacific route to the United States.

Other air carriers flying to other countries outside the US are under the authority of the International Civil Aviation Organization.

According to the FAA's International Aviation Safety Assessment, for Philippine aviation standards to be upgraded back to Category 1, the Philippine government must have the following:

- Laws and regulations necessary to support the certification and oversight of air carriers in accordance with minimum international standards;
- Technical expertise, resources, and organization to license or oversee air carrier operations;
- Adequately trained and qualified technical personnel;
- Adequate inspector guidance to ensure enforcement of, and compliance with, minimum international standards;
- Sufficient documentation and records of certification and adequate continuing oversight and surveillance of air carrier operations.

DEMOLITION AP

A father holds his daughter as he sits on top of what was their house before it was demolished Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008, in suburban Quezon City north of Manila, Philippines. The Metro-Manila Development Authority has started clearing the waterways of squatter shanties in preparation for the rainy season.

Lightning strikes mourners, killing 1, injuring seven

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A woman who was on her way to a dead neighbor's wake was fatally struck by lightning while seven other mourners were injured on a central Philippine island, officials said Thursday.

Marilou Ecol, 45, suffered severe burns and died on the spot as she and the seven others huddled under a shed in Nueva Valencia in Guimaras island province during a rain storm on Tuesday, said provincial disaster relief coordinator Teresita Siazon.

Ecol's 12-year-old daughter, Mariel, who was hugging her mother when the lightning struck, suffered second degree burns on her body, Siazon said in a telephone interview. Two boys, aged 12 and 16, also suffered burns but were not seriously hurt, Siazon said.

The victims were walking to the wake of a dead neighbor and sought shelter from the rain under the shed, Siazon said.

Filipina breaks 2 world records

By Veronica Uy
INQUIRER.NET

MANILA—A Filipina has broken two world records—for making the world's largest flag and the world's largest banner, a representative from the Guinness Book of World Records has announced.

Grace Galindez Gupana received certificates from the Guinness World Records for making the flag of Israel, which measures 18,847 square meters; and the 777 Yahveh's Banner, which combines the flags of Israel, the Philippines, North Korea, South Korea, and the 180 smaller flags of 180 other nations, which measures 54,451 square meters.

At a press conference, Andrea Banfi, adjudications manager of Guinness, handed the certificate for the world's biggest banner to Gupana.

Gupana, chief executive officer of the ABS GEN Herbs International, was given the certificate for the biggest flag on November 25 in Israel, where it was unfurled.

The biggest banner was secretly unfurled at the same place at the Masada Airfield on December 23. Gupana said it was done secretly because North Korea did not have diplomatic relations with Israel and all other countries except China.

Israeli Ambassador to the Philippines Zvi Vapni, who was present at the awarding, thanked Gupana for the flag. He said Israelis and Jewish peoples around the world have come to learn of the Philippines because of the flag.

He said he hoped this would translate into better bilateral relations between the Philippines and Israel.

Gupana said God had instructed her to make the flag.

Another Cordilleran found murdered in Canada

By VINCENT CABREZA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BAGUIO CITY—Another Cordilleran has been reported murdered in Canada.

Canadian newspapers reported this week that the "blood soaked body" of Arcelie Laoagan, 40, had been found by subway train workers on Friday behind a church in Calgary, Alberta.

Anthony Basil, Cordillera case officer of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, said Laoagan, a native of Sagada, Mt. Province, was the second migrant worker to fall victim to a crime in Canada in recent months.

Ifugao-born immigrant Jocelyn Dulnuan, 27, was murdered in a plush neighborhood of Mississauga City in Ontario on Oct. 1 last year. Police have arrested two Latin American immigrants for the murder.

"We now have to address two fatalities from Sagada. We just received home [the body of Sagada native Zennia Aguilan, who was killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan]," Basil said.

The OWWA is awaiting word from the country's foreign office in Canada.

Laoagan was reported missing on Jan. 17 when she failed to return home. According to an online report of the Calgary Herald, she called friends when she was apparently attacked.

Train workers found her sprawled near the Grace Baptist Church.

Laoagan's children flew to Calgary this week to identify her body.

Newspapers reported that Laoagan had two jobs to sustain a family back home. She had resided in Calgary for four years.

But the Cordillera Office of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration has records of Laoagan being deployed to Hong Kong by a local recruitment agency in 2004.

Laoagan worked for two years as a maid there, it said.

Maharlika – Pinoystyle

RUSHES

Annabelle Rama fancies KC for Richard

By the INQUIRER ENTERTAINMENT STAFF
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INQUIRER.NET

MANILA, Philippines—With son Richard Gutierrez close enough to hear, Annabelle Rama heaped praises on KC Concepcion.

Richard Gutierrez

Inevitably, she was asked, did she want KC and her son to team up in reel life?

"Kahit sa totoong buhay, Dong (Even in real life)," she quipped. (Actually, GMA Films has a 2009 film project for the two.)

Even sister Ruffa Gutierrez jumped into the act on "The Buzz," saying that Richard was smitten with a "flying girl." She was alluding to KC's high-wire act in mom Sharon Cuneta's birthday concert last week.

KC, movie star

Though Richard is currently being linked with KC look-alike Jewel Mische, his "Kamandag" partner, he was reportedly seen with KC in Cebu.

Maybe they were there for Sinulog? This is way too early to be a gimmick to drumbeat the tandem.

Before the GMA Films flick, KC is slated to do two movies with Star Cinema—for which names like Sam Milby and John Lloyd Cruz have been dropped as co-stars.

Gabby's turn

Meanwhile, KC's dad, Gabby Concepcion, is raring for a comeback.

A GMA 7 insider says the planned project with Gabby Concepcion is not a TV show, as announced by his father Rolly on "Showbiz Central."

"Actually it's a movie with Jolina Magdangal that GMA Films is line-producing for the Magdangal family," the exec said.

The movie will be set on a cruise ship and will most likely be shot abroad, said the exec.

Seems Gabby—whose current partner, Genevive Yatco, gave birth to his fourth daughter, Samantha Alexis on Jan. 13—can't work on a regular TV show in the country, another network source surmised. Is it because of the lawsuits waiting for him here?

Inspired madness

The all-white feathered costume of Renaldo Lapuz, the 45-year-old Filipino-American who auditioned on "American Idol," was inspired by the movie "Gladiator."

To be precise, remember, Joaquin Phoenix's Roman emperor costume?

The feathered cowboy hat is a tribute to the superhero Flash.

Renaldo also told a Fox TV interviewer that he wore the costume because the ad for the auditions said aspirants should "dress to impress."

■■■

Top of the talk shows

For those who missed the gab fests on TV last weekend.

■ Piolo Pascual on their witnesses in the libel case against Lolit Solis:

"Sila 'yung mga nakakita sa amin so sila yung kinausap namin to [be witnesses]."

■ Lolit Solis' counsel Noel Malaya, on those witnesses:

"After three months, ngayon lang lumutang."

Intimate

■ Manny Pacquiao, on the person who took the controversial photos that showed him with an unidentified woman in a Taguig City bar:

"Minsan, 'yung mga walang pinag-aralan mas may respeto pa sa mga taong may pinag-aralan." (Pero ikaw ba 'yun, o hindi?)

■ Anjo Yllana on having a healthy wife and baby after a life-threatening ordeal:

"'Di na bale na natalo ako nu'ng eleksyon."

■ Jennylyn Mercado, asked if she would still support her family despite being pregnant:

KC Concepcion

"Hindi ibig sabihin noon, ititigil ko ang pagtulong sa kanila."

■ Richard Gutierrez on reports that Marian Rivera was the first passenger in his brand-new Porsche:

"It just so happened na pinadala ko 'yung kotse sa shooting and nagsu-shooting kami ni Marian. Gusto kong malaman ang comments niya. So... siya ang una kong sinakay."

■ Ruffa Gutierrez asked who between Marian Rivera and Jewel Mische is brother Richard's current flame:

"Hindi ko siya tinatanong. Si Richard ay... hindi nagkukwento. Nalalaman na lang namin through other people. Until... napakilala sa amin, hindi siya considered girlfriend."

■ Bayani Agbayani on rumors that he spilled the beans on Cesar Montano's supposed affair with a Brazilian model:

"Nakausap ko na si Pareng Buboy at nag-uusap naman kami ni Mareng Shine. Alam naman namin kung ano talaga yung totoo eh. Ayokong makialam, siyempre." (Pero tuloy ang bagong TV series nila, siyempre.)

'Okey lang' department

■ Dennis Trillo on news linking rumored girlfriend Cristine Reyes to Willie Revillame:

"Kung saan siya masaya, suporta ako."

■ Grace Adriano on Jolo Revilla's courtship of Lovi Poe:

"Okey lang kasi matagal na naman kaming wala. Sana magtagal sila."

■ Lovi Poe on facing suitors like Jolo:

"I don't want to judge the Revillas... Tito (Bong Revilla) says na ang Revilla [ay] babaero." (Honesty, they say...)

■ Jolo begs to disagree:

"We're not womanizers... just friendly. Seryoso ako sa kanya. I'm a one-woman man... 'di na ang dating Jolo Revilla."

Messages galore

■ Rolly Concepcion's message to grandchild KC:

"Keep doing what you're doing. Be good at it. But remember always to keep your feet planted on the ground. All of this is temporary. I told Gabby when he was starting in the movies, 'pag pumasok sa ulo mo na sikat ka, talo ka na."

■ Rolly's message to son Gabby who has a new child, Samantha:

"I'm glad that... you are hoping you can make this marriage [last]... and that you made your wife very happy while making her a complete woman giving her a baby." (Huh?)

$$$ PERSONAL FINANCE

Single moms and money

Question: I am a single mom, 26 years old, with a 6-year-old daughter. Although I am employed as a supervisor in one of the fast-food restaurant chains in the country, I can't help but worry about my daughter's future. I want her to go to college in one of the best universities here so she can get a good job later on. How can I make that a reality? Almost all my salary goes to our needs already. – Abby T.

Answer: Single parents really have a harder time making ends meet. With only one income, they have to pay for all expenses that married couples would otherwise share.

But it doesn't necessarily mean that single parents cannot be financially secure, or that they won't be able to provide for the needs of their children, education included. With discipline and perseverance, single parents can do these successfully.

We don't know the circumstances of your being a single parent. However, know that the law is on your side. If your daughter's father is still alive, you can file a case for child support. Consult a lawyer to help you out on this.

Or if you are in speaking terms with your daughter's father, ask him to send financial support for your child. It is his responsibility as much as it is yours to provide for your child's needs.

But with or without child support, there are some things you can do to ensure that your child will have a bright future. Below are some of them:

1. Find out just how you stand financially.

It's good that you are gainfully employed. Take time this weekend, or even tonight, to write down your income sources and your regular expenses. Include non-monthly expenditures such as tuition (break up the annual fee into a monthly fee for accounting purposes) and Christmas gifts. Is your income enough to cover your spending? This exercise will mirror your financial standing.

Aside from assessing your income and expenses, list all your assets (such as a car, time deposits, and other investments). Then list all your liabilities too—such as your credit card debt, tuition still to be paid, car payments scheduled, etc. Are your assets enough to cover your liabilities? In the event that something bad happens to you tomorrow, these assets will be used to cover the payments of your debts. If your assets are not enough, then you know that you need to shore up or build your asset base more.

2. Start saving now for your future.

We know that your goal is to save enough for your child's college tuition. But before saving up for that, it is important that you save up first for an emergency fund.

This emergency fund represents six months of your earnings. It will be there for you to tide you over should you lose your job or get ill and have to stop working.

It is imperative that you save for this emergency fund first. You'll never know when you may need it—it may even be before your child reaches college. And should that happen, without an emergency fund, you may not even be able to fund your living expenses until then.

You mentioned that almost all your income goes to your needs already. If you haven't started saving, make it a priority to set aside at least ten percent of your paycheck before you even spend the rest of your pay. Put this in a special account opened for your emergency fund. It may be a savings account for now. In the future, when the fund is enough, you may transfer this to a higher-yielding investment so it will earn more.

3. Take out insurance.

Don't think of this as just another expense to factor in your budget. This is important, most especially since your child depends on you.

Get life insurance and health insurance so that your family will not be heavily burdened should something happen to you. This will also protect their financial future.

Shop around for insurance products that will meet your needs and will fit your budget. A starter product is the term life insurance—you will be insured for a set term (say 20 years) and the premium payments are cheaper than whole life insurance.

4. Pay only for what you need.

Cut down your expenses by paying only for your needs, not your wants. At the supermarket, for instance, buy only what's on your market list. Don't buy things on impulse that on hindsight you find out you can do without.

5. Shop wisely.

Compare prices when going to the supermarket or department store and buy the lowest priced item at the quality you can live with. Take a look at generic or in-store brands—you may be surprised to find out that they are of good quality too. And they're a lot cheaper than branded items.

Other tips when shopping:

■ Buy in bulk the things you need to take advantage of discounts and to save on time and transportation.

■ Buy secondhand for items like books, furniture, etc. You can look at secondhand shops or at auction websites.

■ Have a budget and stick to it.

■ Go to places where they sell goods cheap. Baclaran and Divisoria, for instance, are good stops for shopping for school uniforms, school supplies, and other items.

■ Make the supermarket your friend. Don't keep patronizing the convenience store every afternoon for merienda or your child's baon. If you buy snack items at the supermarket at the start of the week, you'll save a lot.

6. Train your child to live simply.

Impress on your child that it's not important to have the latest pencil case or the latest bag in vogue. It's not what you have or what you wear that's important, but it's who you are deep inside. In the same manner, teach your child to be frugal and save a portion of her allowance regularly.

7. Start saving for your child's educational expenses.

You can either get a college savings plan through a financial services company or bank, or save a set amount regularly and invest this wisely on your own.

By getting a college savings plan (a pre-need plan), you will be forced to pay the premium every month for a number of years (usually five years). This is good for those who need a little more help in saving. If this interests you, deal only with reputable financial companies and banks.

Under the second option, you set aside a certain amount every month—different from your emergency fund. Deposit this in a special account, and when you have enough for the minimum investment required, move this money to bond funds or stock funds as it may earn more.

If you start doing so now that your child is only six, you will have enough by the time she's ready to enter college.

8. Lastly, live within your means.

Most parents want their children to go to the best schools. And while there's nothing wrong with that, it can get financially burdensome.

It's not the school, but the person himself that determines success in the workplace. If, in the future, you find out that your resources are not enough to put your child in the best private university for college, find another school that offers quality education at a lower price.

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Maharlika – Opinyon

EDITORIAL

Constitutional menace

Less than two weeks before she steps down as chair of the Civil Service Commission, Karina Constantino-David has deplored the penchant of the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for filling positions with political appointees who are not career-service eligible. David said this undermines the overall professionalization and mobility of the civil service while making governance even more problematic.

Speaking before the Makati Business Club, David said that the Arroyo administration has the highest number of presidential appointees in history—"far more" than previous administrations. She said more than 60 percent of the President's career executive appointees are not eligible. "There are more than 4,000 eligible people within the government waiting to be appointed, but who gets the job? So-and-so's child, relative or minion," she added.

The fact that the President has been appointing executives without the necessary qualifications and naming presidential assistants (in order perhaps to make up for those without eligibility or qualifications) points to an appalling abuse of presidential privilege. In fact, this is the gist of David's remarks. "The main culprit is the abuse of presidential discretion," she said. "The bureaucracy can only become professional if we follow the rules properly from top to bottom."

The abuse is a big blow to governance and transparency. As David said, "[The] bureaucracy is the biggest expense of the budget, but it's viewed as a liability. Sometimes it's not even viewed at all... it remains invisible largely because there's little appreciation of the linkage between bureaucracy and governance."

The remarks are an indictment of the manner in which Ms Arroyo has politicized the civil service in order to curry favor with her political supporters and retain her grip on government because of serious questions about her legitimacy. And coming from the head of a constitutional commission, they are a lament on how the President's constitutional woes have made her even more "constitutionally-challenged," that is, how she's endangering the very constitutional foundations not only of her administration but of government in general.

The President has already compromised the integrity and independence of the Commission on Elections, refused to cooperate with the Commission on Appointments that is constitutionally mandated to screen her appointees, forbade her Cabinet and other officials from cooperating in legislative inquiries, and made a stab at civil liberties by banning political rallies and even media coverage of conflict situations. Now she's making a mockery of the civil service. Everywhere she goes, she spits at the Constitution. She's a walking constitutional menace.

Philippine Daily Inquirer

Finding the Filipino Einstein

Sen. Edgardo J. Angara concluded his Jaime V. Ongpin Memorial Lecture on an optimistic note: "The future is within our reach." He was alarmed that we have lagged behind other, similarly poor countries in science, technology and engineering education—witness Bangalore, India's Silicon Valley. At the same time, he pointed the way out in strengthening basic education in science and math, and in forging a seamless flow from the training of students to their employment by industry, from the laboratories to the commercial use of inventions, and in return, in government-industry partnering to support research.

His optimism couldn't have come at a better time. Philippine education is enjoying a rare, unplanned and unexpected season of opportunity. Money remittances from overseas Filipino workers have fed the enrollment of students in all the colleges and universities that now abound. Foreign-fueled job opportunities have emerged, whether for nurses in America, English teachers in China or call-center operators in the Ortigas business district.

Without these twin bonanzas, there would be little tuition money to sustain the steady influx of applicants each year, and when they graduate, there would be few jobs to absorb the fresh supply of graduates. The first without the latter would be disastrous. The schools would satisfy the craving for diplomas, but the market can't reciprocate with job offers, producing a social volcano of the well-educated, jobless and frustrated.

That merely solves our threshold problem, namely, the viability and survival of schools, and on the other hand, the steady and democratic supply of students. But it will not channel them into better science and technology performance unless we overcome misconceptions about science education.

First, an education in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Innovation is necessarily elite and selective, but the recruitment of future scientists is by necessity just as compellingly democratic. In other words, as Angara proposes, we need to begin with instruction in the basic sciences and math and, I add, we must cast as wide a net as possible to identify the future Einsteins out there in the provinces. Without a strong system of feeder schools—from the elementary level, to the provincial and science high schools—the grand academies of Filipino science would yearly have a dwindling harvest. We must not confine our recruitment to the "sosyal" [classy] crowd in Metro Manila private schools.

Second, in the search for the Filipino Einstein, the most strategic element is Einstein's teacher. In other words, all the big discoveries may have come from the genius, the wizard, and the prodigy, but we cannot spot that solitary whiz, we cannot push him or her to blossom, without the grade school and high school science and math teachers who deal face to face, day to day, with these eager young minds. We must not confine our strategies to the magic moment when we stumble upon the lonesome genius. Rather the key to a systematic and sustained strategy is the classroom teacher.

Third, there is nothing wrong if the state initially creates the job market for scientists. Perhaps in every other field of study, we must rely on the market to furnish the jobs that will pay the rent. But for the highest levels of scientific research, the state must first create the research institutions that will put to use the fancy Ph.D.s of young graduates, before industry can find any use for them and their output.

Ordinarily I am no big fan of any activity that cannot thrive on its own without state subsidies. However, there are a few worthy projects that, in the Philippines, will otherwise wither and die if left to the open market, e.g., classical music, philosophy and the basic sciences. Even in the best American universities, their science faculties rely heavily on federal funding for research grants. It is, in other words, legitimately a political decision for every nation how much it wishes to invest in its scientific future. Stated otherwise, we can either foster the future concert pianists or mass-produce the next generation of variety-show singers. That is a deliberate choice. The latter will be sustained by the market, the former, not.

Fourth, let us stop trying to transform all colleges and universities into high-level research institutions, as if all of them should be mini-versions of Harvard or MIT. Even in the United States, there are the liberal arts schools and the teaching colleges, which are distinct from the big and famous research universities.

Sure, it gives status to tertiary schools to have published authors in their faculty, and teachers who do advanced research usually have more to teach in the classrooms. But when we invest more of our scarce resources to produce faculty with fancier and fancier degrees, writing longer and longer dissertations, do we not miss out on the basic need to have a solid teaching corps?

Each kind of school has its place. The research institutes are indispensable, but they are necessarily specialized, sophisticated and thus few. But of the teaching institutions, there can be more—and they can very well perform the task of basic science and math education, and of spotting the young geniuses in each department.

Finally, a word about the place of a liberal education: I do hold it dear to my heart, and will remind all that historically the great scientists, including Nobel laureates, have held strong ideological views, and were respected for it. Why, after all, would the McCarthyists hound Robert Oppenheimer after he led the development of the atomic bomb with his scientific team in the Manhattan Project at Los Alamos?

PASSION FOR REASON

By RAUL PANGALANGAN
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Notes

When the column deadline nears and I still face a blank computer screen, I am tempted to rush to my bookshelves that contain the 25 volumes of the national hero's collected writings known as the "Escritos de Rizal" series. This never fails to produce column material in desperate time.

On the same shelf are the five volumes, bound in royal blue with blue stamping, a collection of primary-source documents known as the "Philippine Insurrection against the United States."

Unfortunately, both of these sources have no index and going through them can be a challenge if you have not handled them before. If you do not know the period very well, it is next to impossible to piece things together into a coherent essay in a short period of time.

The late William Henry Scott once admitted at an academic conference that all he did to produce his paper was to take one of the "Insurrection" volumes at random, let it stand on its spine and when it opened to a random page, he read it and—Eureka!—he had his topic for a conference paper.

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil who recently published the second of a three-volume autobiography, "Legends and Adventures," the sequel to that wonderful memoir of pre-war Manila, "Myself Elsewhere," once told me that her source for historical columns was the 55-volume Blair and Robertson that she kept within arm's reach during deadlines. At least this comes with a two-volume detailed subject index, but one needs encyclopedic knowledge to pick up details from a random volume and flesh them out, using stock knowledge covering the years 1492-1898. The only living person who could possibly accomplish this, but he doesn't write columns, is O.D. Corpuz. Aside from a gift of near-photographic memory, he has read the entire 55-volume Blair and Robertson, cover to cover, not once but thrice!

Following his example, when I entered the Benedictine Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila the only worldly possession I took with me was a set of Blair and Robertson. I had a modest aim: just read the whole thing from cover to cover, just once. But then, as they say, the spirit was willing but the flesh was weak. My intensive reading program on Philippine history, including monastic life, was never to be.

At the start of the year, I did some spring cleaning and this led to a pile of old notebooks, small pocket-size spiral types that were filled with all sorts of notes. Some notes have been used in columns or lectures, others still stray and waiting for the right bit of inspiration that will connect the strands and produce an essay or a lecture.

I learned to use small notebooks from Gilda Cordero Fernando who always had a trendy notebook in her handbag. The teacher who guided me through my first research paper, Doreen Fernandez, favored 3x5 notecards bound with a rubber band. Unlike notebooks, cards could be shuffled and arranged to form an essay or paper. Nobody seems to be using note cards these days because everything of consequence is found in laptops, cell phones or digital diaries.

My problem with old handwritten notes is that sometimes I cannot read notes five minutes after I have hurriedly scribbled them down. If things are typed on a laptop, you may misspell a lot of things but everything is readable and ultimately decipherable.

I found a small envelope with note cards that provided column and article ideas for 2008. Most of the notes on the cards were drawn from pre-war issues of the Philippines Free Press and the topics were wide-ranging (one wonders if the Ambeth Ocampo of the next generation will find anything of use from contemporary magazines). There was one card on Florencio Intrencherado, a wonderful name that came with a wonderful photograph of a man who claimed to be the Emperor of the Philippines. He was one of the biggest fish merchants in northern Iloilo who bartered fish for other goods and later claimed these goods were given to him, thus avoiding payment of sales taxes. The people of Guimbal pitched in and bought him royal regalia, with people from as far as Jaro offering to build this self-proclaimed emperor a palace for free. I have a soft spot for eccentrics and this man is definitely worth further research.

Gen. Artemio Ricarte, who was the subject of a recent novel by National Artist for Literature F. Sionil Jose entitled "Vibora" (Viper), was the subject of one card. The retired general of the Philippine revolution in 1926 was teaching Spanish in a Yokohama school, was all praises for Manuel Quezon, and was photographed outside a restaurant he and his wife operated in the city. We have requested the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo to explore the possibility of installing a historical marker on the site of Ricarte's home, but unfortunately this cannot be located. Worse, Japanese municipal laws forbid the installation of historical markers in areas not designated for such.

Then there was the fabled Princess Tarhata Kiram, an adopted daughter of the Sultan of Sulu who was educated in the United States and was the first, or one of the first, Muslim women to bob her hair. She maintained tradition, filed her teeth, chewed betel and married against her father's wishes. The princess was said to have collected the yearly "rent" for Sabah from the British.

Someday someone will go through my notes and I can only hope these will be legible and useful.

LOOKING BACK

By AMBETH OCAMPO
Philippine Daily Inquirer

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Maharlika – Samu't Sari

MLK DAY CLEANUP

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Malou Berueco helps in cleaning up parts of the American Memorial Park together with other Unity Movement members Sunday morning.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Jaime Vergara joins other Unity Movement members in cleaning up parts of the American Memorial Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Unity Movement members do their service for the community.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ronnie Doca and Walden Beri help out gathering the weeds during the cleanup.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Cory Borja assists in cleaning up the American Memorial Park.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Rep. Tina Sablan and her father join Unity Movement members during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration at the American Memorial Park Visitors center Monday.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Dekada president Bonifacio Sagana and other Unity Movement members march at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan during the Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Ron Hodges and Unity Movement members gather for a photo during the keynote program at the American Memorial Park amphitheater.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Isabelita Ramos and Biena Aznar devote their Sunday morning cleaning up parts of the American Memorial Park.

Benjamin Cruz collects the grass removed by other Unity Movement members during the cleanup.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

WEDDING RECEPTION

Friends and guests join Dexter and Dulce Dimayuga, seated left, during their wedding reception at Canton Restaurant in Garapan Tuesday night.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greeting go to Dennis P. Bognot who is celebrating his birthday today. From your friends in Elite Printing.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Youngstyle

A White House dog-and-pony show

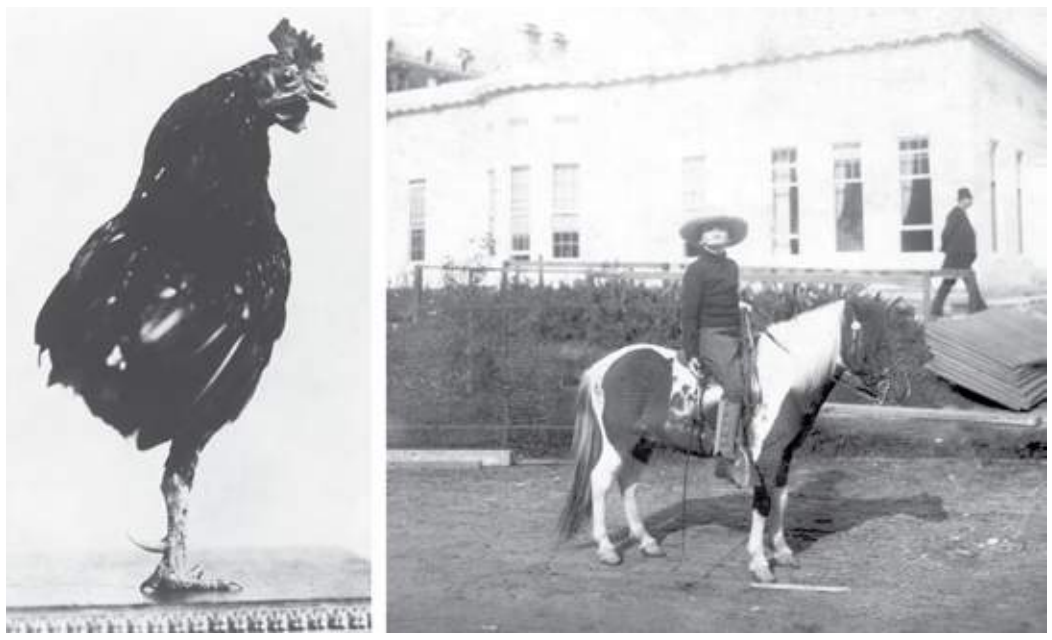
By MARYLOU TOUSIGNANT
(C) 2008, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Since 1800, when John and Abigail Adams became the first residents of what we now call the White House, lots of pets also have called it home. The Adamses started things off with two dogs, Juno and Satan, and built stables for horses.

Over two centuries, the mansion at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. has welcomed all sorts of animals, from an alligator to wolfhounds. In size, these creatures have ranged from silkworms to an elephant (he only visited, though, and lived at the zoo).

Some of these pets were faithful companions, some helped shape public opinion about their owners, and some were ambassadors for good causes.

In the early 1900s, Theodore Roosevelt's children nearly turned the White House into an ark. Besides dogs and cats, they had a pony and horses, some sheep, a macaw, guinea pigs, rats, snakes, a badger and a one-legged rooster.



THE WASHINGTON POST

Lots of pets have called the White House home. Left, Theodore Roosevelt's family had a one-legged rooster during its stay in Washington. Right, Archie Roosevelt and his famous pony, Algonquin, who rode in a White House elevator.

Once, when 13-year-old Archie Roosevelt was very sick, his brother Quentin brought their pony, Algonquin, upstairs in the White House elevator to cheer him.

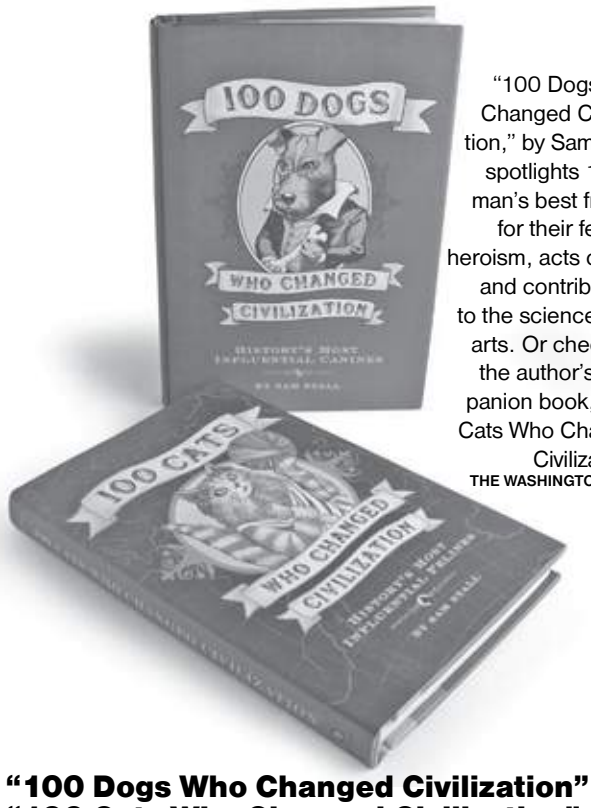
In 1863, Tad Lincoln interrupted a wartime Cabinet meeting to plead with his father to spare the life of a turkey that was about to become Christmas dinner. Abraham Lincoln did as 10-year-old Tad wished, pardoning the bird.

You can learn more about White House pets in an exhibit at the White House Visitor Center, 1450 Pennsylvania Ave. in Washington. The center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit is free and runs through March 9.

A year from now, a new president will be inaugurated and move into the White House. Maybe some new pets will move in, too.

BOOK REVIEW

Pets 'who changed civilization'



"100 Dogs Who Changed Civilization," by Sam Stall, spotlights 100 of man's best friends for their feats of heroism, acts of love and contributions to the sciences and arts. Or check out the author's companion book, "100 Cats Who Changed Civilization."
THE WASHINGTON POST

"100 Dogs Who Changed Civilization"
"100 Cats Who Changed Civilization"
Both by Sam Stall

You've heard of man's best friend, the dog. This book spotlights 100 best friends for their feats of heroism, acts of love and contributions to the sciences and arts.

There's Laika, a simple mutt from the streets of Moscow who became the first earthling in space. Her historic 1957 flight handed the Russians a major victory in the race to land a man on the moon. (Laika died several hours into her mission, however, probably from fright.)

And there's Ginny, a schnauzer/husky mix who was named "Cat of the Year" in New York because of her knack for finding and rescuing stray cats and kittens.

Not a dog person? Not to worry. Check out the author's companion book, "100 Cats Who Changed Civilization." Featured felines include Oscar, a shipboard cat who survived three sinkings in World War II, and Pulcinella, a composer's cat who inspired an 18th-century harpsichord sonata by walking up and down the keyboard.

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THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

First Winter Olympics

International Winter Sports Week, the first modern-day Winter Olympics, began on Jan. 25, 1924, in France. There were 258 athletes (only 11 women) from 16 nations competing in the 16 events. Charles Jewtraw of the United States won the first gold medal of the Games, in 500-meter speed skating. How times have changed: The 2006 Games in Italy had 84 events, featuring 2,508 athletes (960 women) from 80 nations. The next Winter Olympics will be in Vancouver, Canada, in 2010.

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

Right on the money?

Nearly 150 million Americans are collecting the 50 State Quarters. The U.S. Mint's popular program is entering its 10th year. The last five state quarters will be issued this year, starting with the Oklahoma coin on Monday.

Each quarter is produced for only 10 weeks and will never be minted again—which is why the program is such a hit with collectors. Because of this popularity, about 20 billion more quarters than normal were minted from 1999 to 2006, government officials say.

You can learn a lot about the history of the states from the 45 quarter designs now in circulation. Have you been paying attention? If so, accept our challenge:

See if you can identify which state goes with each of these 12 quarters.

Answers:

1. Iowa
2. Wisconsin
3. Florida
4. Kansas
5. Oregon
6. California
7. West Virginia
8. Nebraska
9. Nevada
10. Washington
11. Wyoming
12. Utah

(c) 2008, The Washington Post

You can learn a lot about the history of the states from the 45 quarter designs now in circulation. See if you can identify which state goes with each of these 12 quarters.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Kidsday shopper: Stuff kids buy

NYKO Zero

By JILL-MARIE HOGAN
Kidsday Reporter
NEWSDAY

I tested the NYKO Zero Wireless controller for the PS2. The concept behind this controller is flawless—a game controller without the extra hassle that wires entail. A small receiver plugs into the game system and this controller uses a rechargeable battery pack that clicks easily into the back.

This great set includes a USB cord that plugs right into your controller and the computer. It charges the battery pack and gets you right back into the game. Not patient enough? They've included a double-A battery pack so you can win the game in no time! Don't worry about where you're sitting or if you're moving, you can take this all over the room. Its sleek shape makes it easy to hold, and manipulate the controls.

iHome2GO

By CASEY LYNCH
Kidsday Reporter
NEWSDAY

I tested the iHome2Go Cycler bike-to-beach iPod speaker ($89). It can be used in many different ways. You can plug your iPod into this item after charging it or putting in batteries. I thought that it was a great idea to have the touchpad—which directs it to play, skip to the next song or adjust the volume—clip to the handlebars. This gadget can clip to your bike itself or you can put it in the case that comes with it and sling it over your bike. The iHome2Go can also be carried to the beach, on vacation, even into the shower because its case is water-resistant.

KickSpeed radar

By TRISTAN SANCHEZ WHITEHOUSE
Kidsday Reporter
NEWSDAY

KickSpeed radar ($99) is a tiny device attached to a circular target. It measures the speed of a soccer ball kicked at or near the target.

It is very simple to set up and use. All you have to do is follow the step-by-step instructions.

KickSpeed can be used by soccer players of all ages.

It can handle anything from 12 mph to more than 100 mph! KickSpeed can be used anywhere, and is very easy to carry. My friend David Alvarado, 11, and I even used it on his trampoline! Our hardest kick was 42 mph.

We both had a good time making up shots, doing bicycle kicks and even throwing the soccer ball at it a few times.

Visit the Web site kickspeedradar.com.

miJam Minis

By RONNIE NUNEZ and JOSE TAVERAS
Kidsday Reporter
NEWSDAY

Wherever you look, you see kids listening to iPods and other MP3 (digital audio) players.

We reviewed miJam Minis ($20), a collection of pocket-sized music makers that you can plug into your digital audio player to create your own background music while listening to favorite songs.

There are four miJam Mini styles: drumpad, keyz (keyboard), guitar and mixer. The drumpad has different types of drums and percussion sounds to add to your music. The keyz style allows you to add piano sounds, the guitar adds guitar chords and the mixer lets you become the DJ and add sound effects to your music.

We really enjoyed each of the Minis. They are small and easy to travel with. You can play them with headphones or hook them up to speakers.

We also liked that you can play them on their own if you don't want to "jamm" along with your song list. We think that they are definitely worth $20.

They are available at stores or on b2lounge.com.

High School Musical Dolls

By SYDNEY BOBILLIER, EMILY LONDONO, DEVON SMITH-MARTIN and CRYSTAL PASCUAL
Kidsday Reporter
NEWSDAY

"The High School Musical" TV movies were a big hit, and we think Mattel's new dolls—made to look like the characters—will be a big hit, too.

We think they look a lot like their characters and are dressed in outfits that fans will remember from scenes in the movies. Kids ages 12 and younger can play or act out scenes with these dolls. Or just keeping them as collectibles would be cool, too.

There are six dolls available, including the two main characters, Troy and Gabriella. They cost $20 to $35.

Kids talk with Dylan and Cole Sprouse

By REINA CAMPOS, NICOLE HALADUS and MUQIT TASFIC
Kidsday Staff Reporters
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

We interviewed Dylan and Cole Sprouse, stars of the Disney Channel's "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody," while they were in Manhattan recently. They were promoting their book series "47 R.O.N.I.N."

Question: How did you decide which one of you would play Cody and who would play Zach?

Cole: We had a conversation and we said who wants to be the nerdy one, and who wants to be the crazy, smarmy one. I agreed to be the nerdy one, and I have not had a regret. It has been really fun. We love our characters on the show. The writers have done a great job with all the jokes.

Dylan and Cole Sprouse are the stars of the Disney Channel's "The Suite Life of Zach and Cody."

Q: Tell us about your "47 R.O.N.I.N." books. Do you think your books will be turned into a movie or TV show?

Dylan: We never actually thought of that. Maybe, it would be fun. We would love the Jonas brothers to play Mitch and Tom.

Cole: I do not see ourselves playing Mitch and Tom. We do not look anything alike. It would be a lot of fun to see it turned into a movie. Might happen in the future, who knows?

Q: Are you two very different?

Cole: Actually, Zach and Cody were based on us. Their original names were Dylan and Cole, but for some reason we changed them, and the characters have kind of grown apart from us a little bit as they progressed in the stories. Cody is a little brainier in life than I am.

I think when it really comes down to it, my brother and I are a little more like Zach.

Q: Is "Suite Life" shown in other countries?

Dylan: In 180 other countries.

Cole: And we speak 140 different languages. On the show, I would love to hear what I sound like in Tokyo.

Q: Is this your last season of Zach and Cody?

Cole: We think it is; we hope there is something more in the future.

There could be possible something else for Disney in the future. But I guess you've got to wait and see because we're not gonna tell ya. Sorry, guys.

...and with author Stephen Wong

By DAVID JAWOROSKI, TYLER O'BRIEN and ZACHARY WILSON
Kidsday Staff Reporters
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

We recently spoke with Stephen Wong, author of "Baseball Treasures" (HarperCollins, $16.99), at the Museum of the City of New York in Manhattan.

Question: Your book mentions your amazing baseball collection. Do you have a favorite item?

Answer: The jersey that Lou Gehrig wore in the 1937, 1938 and 1939 seasons.

During those years, the Yankees won the World Series . . . which was the tail end of his career.

Q: Is there an item you don't have that you'd like to?

A: A game-used bat from Shoeless Joe Jackson… There are a lot of his bats out there from after he was banned from the major leagues—he played in non-major leagues after—but to get one of his bats from his major-league games would be wonderful.

Q: Have you ever been to a World Series?

A: Yes, I was fortunate to attend the 2000 Subway World Series with the Yankees vs. Mets in Yankee Stadium.

Q: If you could have dinner with three baseball players, whom would you choose?

A: Babe Ruth, because he is one of the most interesting characters in baseball history, and what he represented to the game in the 1920s… Dizzy Dean, because he represents (1930s) Depression-era baseball . . . and was one of the key characters and a great pitcher.

Jackie Robinson, simply because of his importance in breaking the color barrier. For a man to be able to go through that challenge for employment, to be able to talk (to him) would be a privilege.

Jokes for kids

By Kidsday Staff Reporters
(C) 2008, NEWSDAY

Who is the coldest relative on Earth?
Aunt Arctica.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Benny.
Benny who?
Benny long time no see.

What kind of gum do bees like?
Bumble gum.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Raven. Raven who?
Raven maniac.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Cows.
Cows who?
No, cows moo!

Why did Santa need new underwear?
Because his were full of ho-ho-holes.

What kind of license does a refrigerator have?
A license to chill.

What do you get when you cross a turkey with a banjo?
A turkey that plucks itself.

Why did the bird go to the theater?
She wanted to wait in the wings.

Why did the computer go to the chiropractor?
It had a slipped disc.

What do you call a dog who is a librarian?
A hush puppy.

What kind of air is the richest?
Billion air.

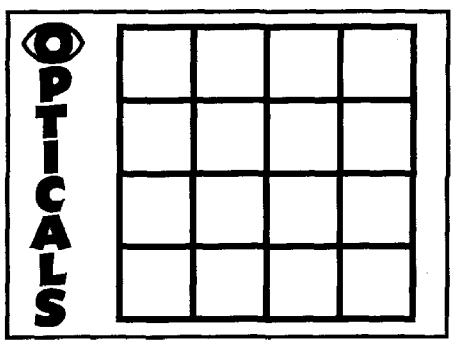
Why did the high school student forget his homework?
He was in his senior year.

Patient: Doctor, I think I am a bridge.
Doctor: Well, what has come over you?
Patient: So far, a bus, two motorcycles, three bikes and four cars.

Knock, knock.
Who's there?
Rufus.
Rufus who?
Rufus falling in.

Travel agent: I understand you'd like to visit Egypt?
Customer: I sphinx so.

OPTICALS



HOW MANY SQUARES are there in the above drawing? (There are four different sized squares in the picture.).

Answer: 30 squares.

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

1.	B						E
2.		B				E	
3.			B		E		
4.				B	E		
5.			B			E	
6.		B					E
7.	B						E

TO BE, OR NOT TO BE, THAT IS THE PUZZLE!

Using the definitions and anagrams below, you must find the seven eight-letter words that fit into the framework pictured on the left. For each definition, the letters in the two anagram words must be unscrambled and used to form the word asked for.

DEFINITION:	ANAGRAMS:
1. To move dirt.	zebu + doll
2. A type of voter.	teen + base
3. Owing no one.	bets + sled
4. Found in gyms.	sell + barb
5. Crusty ocean dwellers.	robs + lets
6. Having gained possession of.	dine + boat
7. Between a bass and a tenor.	trio + bane

Answers: 1. Bulldoze. 2. Absentee. 3. Debtless. 4. Barbells. 5. Lobsters. 6. Obtained. 7. Baritone.

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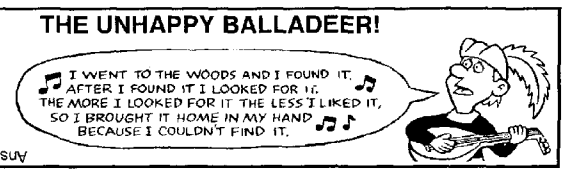
THE UNHAPPY BALLADEER!

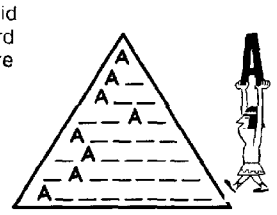
What is he singing about?


I WENT TO THE WOODS AND I FOUND IT.
AFTER I FOUND IT I LOOKED FOR IT.
THE MORE I LOOKED FOR IT THE LESS I LIKED IT,
SO I BROUGHT IT HOME IN MY HAND
BECAUSE I COULDN'T FIND IT.

Answer: A sliver in his hand.

THE 'A' PYRAMID! As you move down the word pyramid shown, each word contains the same letters as the word above it, plus a new letter. We give you all the A's. Here are some hints from the top down:

1. First letter (given).
2. Present; attending.
3. Loves picnics.
4. A small biter.
5. Pro ballplayers have one.
6. An attracting object.
7. An article of clothing.
8. A heated debate.



Answers: A, at, ant, gnat, agent, magnet, garment, argument.

Strange BUT TRUE

By SAMANTHA WEAVER

■ If you're reading this column, you obviously speak English. You might not know, though, that you also speak more than a hundred different languages—a little bit of them, anyway. Because English has borrowed from numerous other languages, the average English-speaker's vocabulary includes words from at least 100 languages.

■ A sportsman in Ohio once held up an 8-inch fish he had just caught, showing it off to his buddies. Unfortunately for both him and the fish, it wriggled out of his hand and somehow fell into his mouth, causing him to choke to death on his not-quite-dead trophy.

■ A small town in New Jersey wanted to have the same status with the government as national parks, so the citizens renamed the town National Park. It didn't work—the government evidently saw through the ruse and turned down their request.

■ The National Football League goes through a lot of footballs in one season. Those who study such things say it takes 3,000 cows to supply the NFL with the leather they need for all of them.

■ Many U.S. presidents have been golfers, but not all of them have been particularly good. Gerald Ford once hit someone with a ball (by accident, presumably). Afterward he reportedly remarked, "I know I'm getting better because I'm hitting fewer spectators."

■ It's getting to be the time of year again when people everywhere procrastinate about filing their taxes. Tax season can certainly be a trying time, making people do strange things. For instance, an Internal Revenue Service office in Indianapolis once fielded a call from an irate woman who demanded to speak to the computer.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "A criminal is a person with predatory instincts without sufficient capital to form a corporation." —Howard Scott

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MAGIC MAZE ● EMMY FOR LEAD ACTOR - COMEDY SERIES

H	Q	N	K	H	E	B	Y	W	T	R	O	L	J	G
H	C	S	R	I	H	E	B	Y	W	U	R	M	P	N
K	B	I	G	E	D	B	Z	X	A	V	U	E	S	Q
O	E	U	M	K	T	I	G	E	D	L	T	C	O	A
Y	N	W	O	U	W	T	S	N	L	N	S	N	Q	P
N	N	N	X	H	L	O	I	I	A	J	A	H	F	E
C	Y	A	O	Y	L	X	G	R	A	M	M	A	R	V
U	S	Q	F	S	P	A	U	H	O	V	G	N	M	K
J	H	F	E	C	N	D	H	R	T	B	R	U	Z	Y
X	V	R	A	S	E	A	C	S	U	I	T	E	L	R
Q	P	O	M	S	M	A	D	A	L	K	L	I	G	K

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Adams	Danson	Hirsch	Ritter
Alda	Durante	Klugman	Romano
Benny	Gervais	Lithgow	Shalhoub
Caesar	Grammar	Mulligan	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		+		22
–		x		–	
	+		+		11
x		÷		x	
	+		+		20
18		1		18	

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 8 9

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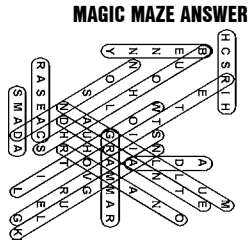
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

	18		1		18
20	9	+	8	+	3
	x		÷		x
11	6	+	4	+	1
	–		x		–
22	8	+	2	x	7

New Year, new dog part III

The next basic command to add to your dog's daily training regimen is "down," which prompts it to move from a standing or sitting position to lying on the ground. As with the command "sit," this command can be used in conjunction with "stay."

Start by training it to go from a standing position to "down" position. With your dog on the leash, have it heel a few paces, then stop and give the command "down." It will likely not do anything, although some dogs will automatically sit. In either case you need to show it again. Do so by wrapping your left arm securely around your dog's shoulders. Take hold of its left front leg with your left hand, then grab its right front leg with your right hand. Gently lift its legs up and ease it into position on the ground, all the while saying "down" in a firm and steady voice.

Return to the beginning of the drill—heeling a few paces, stopping, and giving the command, with some physical help if necessary—repeating the command as you show it how to position.

Once it has the hang of it, add the "stay" command. Again, as soon as it drops into the down position, pivot around on your left foot so you are facing the dog. Hold your hand flat out over its muzzle and say "stay" firmly and repeatedly, putting it back into position each time he tries to stand up. The initial goal should be five seconds, increasing to three minutes.

As a reminder, keep these daily training sessions to about 15-30 minutes. The key is repetition, not overload.

Recommended book: "Puppy's First Steps: The Whole-Dog Approach to Raising a Happy, Healthy, Well-Behaved Puppy," edited by Nicholas Dodman, BVMS, MRCVS, with Lawrence Lindner (Houghton Mifflin, $24.95).

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paws Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Make a colorful sun catcher

This month, make these colorful window decorations to brighten your child's bedroom during gloomy winter days. When the glue has dried, these sun catchers will have the look of stained glass. Help your kids create a design of a character or object from their favorite books and stories.

You'll need:

- Plastic wrap
- Plastic or paper cups
- All-purpose, white household glue
- Food coloring
- Several thick, black pipe cleaners in 12-inch lengths
- Ribbon, string or cording

Think about what kind of sun catcher you would like to make, such as a star, heart or daisy. For your first project, make it as simple as possible. Use basic drawings from coloring books to get yours started, if you wish. As you get more proficient, make a shamrock for St. Patrick's Day or a decorated egg for Easter.

Bend and attach pipe cleaners together to get your desired shape, and glue the shape completely flat onto a sheet of plastic wrap. Add details by gluing smaller lengths of pipe cleaner on the inside of the design, like a small circle for the center of a flower. (It is very important that pipe cleaners adhere to the plastic wrap.) Your design should look similar to the outlines on a coloring-book page. Let dry. Now it's time to add the color.

Pour 3-4 tablespoons of glue into a paper cup. Add 5-10 drops of food coloring, and stir. Mix glue and food coloring in additional cups if you wish to have a rainbow of colors. Pour the colored glue inside the pipe-cleaner shape. If you added details, pour different colors in the various sections. Let dry completely. (It usually takes about a day.)

When dry, the colored glue will appear translucent. Carefully peel off the plastic wrap from the sun catcher and discard.

Hang your beautiful design in a window using cording or ribbon.

■ ■ ■

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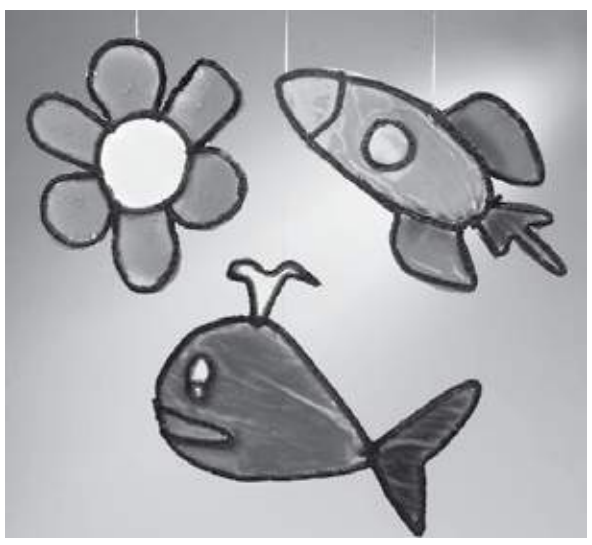

Life & Style

Winehouse in rehab? Yes, yes, yes

AP

British singer Amy Winehouse leaves Snaresbrook Crown Court in London after the hearing of her husband Blake Fielder-Civil in this Jan. 18, 2008 file photo.

LONDON (AP)—More rehab for Amy Winehouse? Yes, yes, yes. The jazz-pop diva best known for refusing to enter drug rehab in her hit song entered a treatment facility Thursday. The announcement came just days after the 24-year-old was pictured in British tabloid The Sun inhaling fumes from a small pipe. Police are investigating.

"Amy decided to enter the facility today after talks with her record label, management, family and doctors," Universal Music Group said in a statement. The statement also indicated Winehouse still planned to attend and perform at the Grammys, to be held Feb. 10 in Los Angeles.

"She has come to understand that she requires specialist treatment to continue her ongoing recovery from drug addiction," the statement said.

Winehouse, who is nominated for six Grammy Awards for her acclaimed "Back to Black" album, seems to be as famous for her drug problems as for her music. Since the album's U.S. release last year, she has canceled a slew of appearances amid reports of drug use.

In the album's most popular song, "Rehab," she references her struggles, singing: "They tried to make me go to rehab/ I said no, no, no."

Universal said it hoped Winehouse would "come back to full health and fulfill her incredible potential with the label."

She canceled a scheduled appearance Saturday at the NRJ music awards ceremony in France, Universal said.

Winehouse spent time in rehab in August, when she also pulled out of a series of dates in Britain, the United States and Canada. The following month she was arrested with husband Blake Fielder-Civil in Norway and fined $715 for possession of marijuana.

According to The Sun, video of Winehouse apparently using drugs was shot before she attended a court hearing to see Fielder-Civil appear on charges of assault and lying to police.

Winehouse was photographed walking outside her London home last month wearing only a bra and jeans, with no shoes, looking distressed.

Ledger masseuse made 4 calls to Olsen

NEW YORK (AP)—The woman who discovered a lifeless Heath Ledger spent nine minutes making three calls to Mary-Kate Olsen before she dialed 911 for help, police said Thursday. She called the "Full House" actress a fourth time after paramedics arrived.

The calls do not have any significant bearing on the investigation because authorities believe Ledger was dead when she arrived and have ruled out foul play. But they paint a more precise picture of the bizarre series of events surrounding the Australian-born actor's final moments.

The woman, Diana Wolozin, had an appointment to give Ledger a massage Tuesday afternoon. Police originally said she made two calls to Olsen in seeking her help about what to do, but revised it to four after taking a closer look at Ledger's phone records.

Wolozin apparently knew both Ledger and Olsen and that they were friends; all the calls were made from Ledger's cell phone. Olsen's representative did not return telephone calls or emails Thursday.

Messages left at telephone numbers listed for Wolozin were not returned. Her name is not listed on the New York State Education Department's Web site, which tracks licensed health care professionals.

Among the qualifications for a massage therapy license in New York is CPR certification; police had said an emergency operator provided Wolozin directions on how to perform CPR on Ledger, but it was too late. Practicing massage in New York without a license is a class E felony that can result in fines or jail time.

The details emerged as Ledger's family made plans to bury the 28-year-old "Brokeback Mountain" actor. Ledger's body was taken to the Frank E. Campbell funeral home, where a private viewing was scheduled for Friday. Ledger's family was flying to the U.S. from Australia.

The cause of Ledger's death not be known for at least a week, after the coroner completes toxicology reports. Authorities suspect a possible accidental overdose, but nothing conclusive has been determined. Six types of prescription medication were found in the apartment, but no illegal drugs, police said.

'Quantum of Solace' is latest Bond film

IVER HEATH, England (AP)—Bond is back—and he wants revenge.

Producers have revealed some of the secrets about the latest James Bond film, due for release later this year, including the inner turmoil that drives its suave superagent hero and its title: "Quantum of Solace."

As titles go, it's not as mellifluous as "From Russia With Love" or "Goldfinger." But Daniel Craig, returning as Bond after 2006's "Casino Royale," says he likes it.

"It has grown on me," Craig told reporters on the film's set at Pinewood Studios near London on Thursday. "It doesn't trip off the tongue. But why should it?"

Producer Michael G. Wilson said the title, chosen only a few days ago, was taken from a story by Bond creator Ian Fleming that appears in the collection "For Your Eyes Only."

Craig said Fleming defined a quantum of solace—it means, roughly, a measure of comfort—as "that spark of niceness in a relationship that if you don't have, you might as well give up."

Filming began earlier this month at Pinewood, the franchise's home since the 1960s. It's a direct sequel to 2006's "Casino Royale," beginning an hour after that film ends, with Bond devastated by his betrayal by true love Vesper Lynd.

"He had his heart broken at the end of the last movie and that certainly is a spur for him in this one," Craig said.

"I'd be lying if I said there wasn't revenge in his heart. But it's more than that. That spurs him on, but that's not what the movie is. It's not a revenge movie. It's about him figuring a few things out."

Producer Barbara Broccoli said the film, directed by Marc Forster ("Monster's Ball," "The Kite Runner"), mixes Bond's "inner turmoil" with action—and of course gadgets—as he tries to stop a shadowy cabal trying to bring down the world economy.

AP

British actors Daniel Craig who plays James Bond, right, and Gemma Arterton who plays Agent Fields, left, pose with Ukrainian actress Olga Kurylenko, centre, for photographers at a photo call for the new Bond film, which has now been titled Quantum of Solace, at Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire, England, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008.

Woman's stepchildren use old house as party central

Dear Abby

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I married a man with two adult children. When I met him, "Jerry" was a single father whose ex-wife had died soon after their divorce.

I have two small children who live with us. Jerry has been a wonderful husband and stepfather. When we married years ago, we both owned our own homes. We jointly decided to rent mine and live in his.

Whenever we go away on a vacation, his children use our home without asking. There have been parties, complaints from neighbors, our house left in disarray, and "friends" I don't know sleeping in my children's beds. In the past, Jerry tolerated this behavior.

Now that my children and I live here, I asked my husband to talk to his children about this. He did, and things have toned down, but they haven't stopped.

It bothers me that they use our home when we're not here. I feel it's an invasion of privacy, lack of respect and a risk. Jerry feels it's their home, too, and he's reluctant to be firm with them. I don't think they or their friends should be here when we're gone. Am I out of line?

—HOME INVASION IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR HOME INVASION: No, I agree with you. Circumstances have changed since your husband's children lived there, and your feelings need to be considered.

It is no longer "their" house. Throwing wild parties, inviting strangers to use the beds and leaving the place in disarray is disrespectful to both you and their father, and should not be tolerated. Your husband's reluctance to make this clear may have to do with lingering guilt over his divorce from their mother, but it's time for him to step up, do what's right and draw the line.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm in the eighth grade, and I have crushes on two boys. One is in 11th grade and the other is a senior.

The boy in 11th grade treats me like a queen, and I don't exactly like that. On the other hand, the senior treats me like I'm nothing, and I really like him.

My friends think I should be with the one who's in 11th grade. What do you think?

—HARRISBURG, PA., TEEN

DEAR TEEN: I think you have confused the excitement of a "challenge" with a real relationship. Before you begin dating anyone, it's important that you figure out exactly what it is about being treated well that turns you off, and why you're attracted to someone who is even mildly abusive. The sooner you do that the better, because you'll save yourself a world of disappointment and pain.

PS: Right now, I think both of those boys are too old for you.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: What should a person do when he or she works with a pathological liar? This woman brags about extravagant trips to New York, Europe, etc., from which she never brings any pictures to show. She brags about what she has or what she buys. She even tells people that she's a lawyer when she's really a secretary, and tells everyone that she's going to school, but she has never enrolled at any colleges.

This woman and I have friends in common, and I know that none of what she brags about is true. Because she works with a lot of professional people, I guess she feels she has to make up lies to fit in. I wish everyone knew what she's doing so they wouldn't fall for her lies. What do you recommend?

—FED UP IN PASCO, WASH.

DEAR FED UP: The person you have described has enough problems without you creating more for her. I recommend you bide your time and keep your distance. People who lie usually trip themselves up and give themselves away eventually.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

ARE YOU JUST GOING TO SIT INSIDE ALL DAY?
YOU SHOULD GO PLAY OUTSIDE AND GET SOME FRESH AIR!
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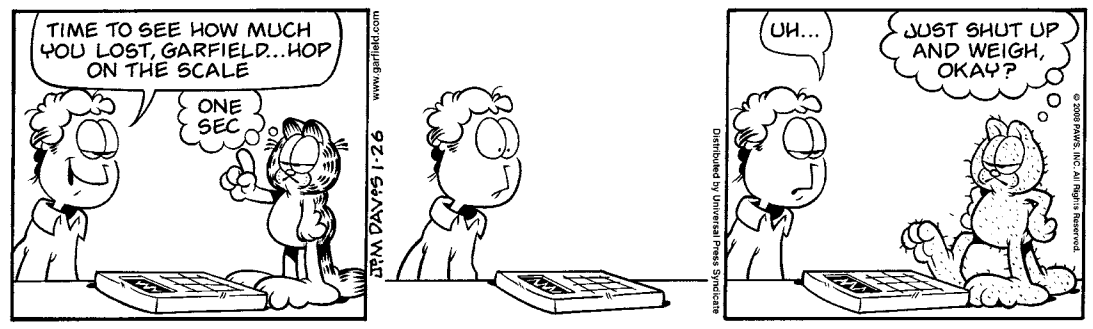
1/26
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis


TIME TO SEE HOW MUCH YOU LOST, GARFIELD...HOP ON THE SCALE
ONE SEC
JIM DAVIS 1-26
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UH...
JUST SHUT UP AND WEIGH, OKAY?
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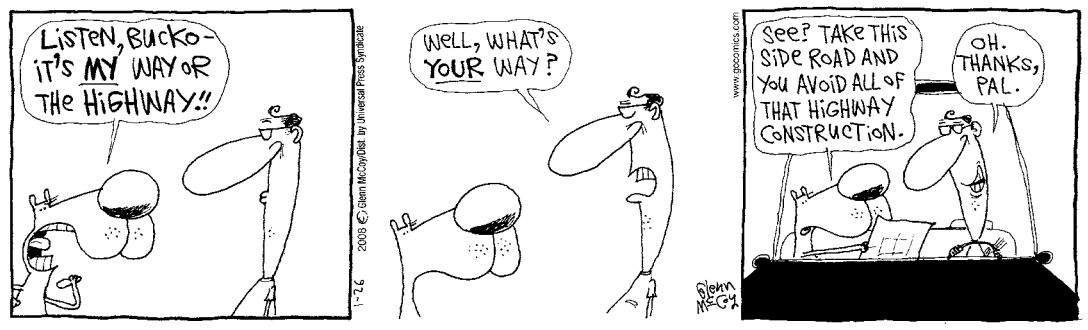
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

BRIAN © 2008 UNIVERSAL BASSETT PRESS SYNDICATE
I'M SORRY, LI'L BUDDY. I DIDN'T MEAN YOU GAVE ME YOUR COLD ON PURPOSE.
SNIFF
1/26
WWW.GOCOMICS.COM
BLOGS.MYCNBES.COM/BRIAN

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


LISTEN, BUCKO - IT'S MY WAY OR THE HIGHWAY!!
WELL, WHAT'S YOUR WAY?
1-26
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SEE? TAKE THIS SIDE ROAD AND YOU AVOID ALL OF THAT HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION.
OH. THANKS, PAL.
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Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pocket-watch chain
4 Straight flush, e.g.
8 Err
12 — out a living
13 Addict
14 Emanation
15 Geological period
16 Old portico
17 Ski lift transport
18 Zoo howler
21 "— Miss Brooks"
22 "... — a lender be"
23 Urban sale site
26 Lustrous black
27 Carte lead-in
30 Plumbum
31 Same old, same old
32 Ends in failure
33 Still
34 Launch locale
35 Dutch export
36 Scatter seeds
37 Mined-over matter
38 Tree with slender hanging branches
45 Pitch
46 Many millennia
47 Ostrich's kin
48 "Turandot" tune
49 Undo a dele
50 Force (Lat.)
51 N. Dak. neighbor
52 Angry
53 "Monty Python" opener

DOWN
1 Have a hunch
2 Gumbo ingredient
3 Sweetheart
4 "Quiet!"
5 Moving
6 Night light?
7 Friday telecast?
8 Attendant of Bacchus
9 Friction reducer
10 Dr. Seuss' "If — the Zoo"
11 South American rubber
19 Acceptable
20 Spicy
23 Crafty
24 Ball-bearing item
25 Granola morsel
26 Bad guy in "Oklahoma!"
27 Have a bug
28 Mainlander's memento
29 Cleo's slayer
31 Vulgarity
32 Hamilton-Burr battle
34 Luau bowlful
35 Mournful
36 Pie-in-the-face sound
37 Manual reader?
38 "Pow!"
39 Modern coin
40 Ms. Brocko-vich
41 Relied on for one's expertise
42 Jeans-maker Strauss
43 Leave out
44 Weakling

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	P	T	■	R	E	F	■	J	A	B	B	A
L	O	U	■	U	K	E	■	A	L	O	U	D
I	L	L	■	T	E	D	D	Y	B	O	Y	S
B	A	S	■	H	O	U	R	S	■	■	■	■
I	R	A	Q	■	U	P	I	■	W	O	K	S
■	■	■	A	C	T	■	P	L	A	N	E	T
P	H	O	T	O	■	■	E	L	E	G	Y	■
E	M	B	A	N	K	■	E	A	T	■	■	■
N	O	I	R	■	N	O	N	■	Z	A	R	F
■	■	■	B	O	N	G	O	■	G	E	L	■
T	E	D	D	Y	B	E	A	R	■	A	T	E
S	W	E	A	T	■	A	G	E	■	I	R	E
P	E	N	N	E	■	L	E	S	■	N	O	T

Yesterday's answer 1-26

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				■	17			
18			19					20				
■	■	■	21			■	22			■	■	■
23	24	25			■	26			■	27	28	29
30				■	31			■	32			
33			■	34			■	35				
■	■	■	36			■	37			■	■	■
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45				■	46				■	47		
48				■	49				■	50		
51				■	52				■	53		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kirk Franklin, 38; Ellen DeGeneres, 50; Eddie Van Halen, 53; Lucinda Williams, 55

Happy Birthday: Focus on mingling with the people who can help you get ahead. Your drive and ability to find solutions will lead to offers that take you in a direction more suitable to your needs. Don't let anger or jealousy stand in your way. It will be a fine line you walk this year, with no room for mistakes. Your numbers are 5, 22, 23, 42, 44, 49

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Concentrate on your future, not your past. Let go of people and ideas that just aren't good for you. Work behind the scenes on projects that have potential. Research, travel and group involvement will help you advance. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may be feeling a little used if you've been helping others lately. Do what you think is right regarding love and relationships. It won't pay to burn bridges but let others know what you will and won't do and put up with. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can't let anyone bog you down with trivial matters. Added responsibilities will stand in the way of your following your own pursuits. You can learn something advantageous if you focus on doing the things you enjoy most and gaining professional knowledge. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Don't shy away from a past partner or associate. This person has something to offer you that will benefit you professionally, financially or even personally. This time around, however, be prepared to barter so that you get a fair deal. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't give into emotional blackmail. Refuse to let anyone make you feel guilty for something that is inconsequential in your world. You have matters of finance and moneymaking to deal with. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Opportunities are heading your way, so keep an open mind and an open heart. A change will inspire you to go the extra mile and obtain everything you can to reach your highest potential. Don't slow down now. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You may be in a hurry to get things done but, if you don't wait to make sure that everything is in its place, you may have to backtrack. Be smart and focus on the little details that will make the most difference in the end. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You can build something solid using a little ingenuity. Follow your intuition and don't let anything lead you down the wrong path. Strong convictions and ethics will help you see matters through to the end. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You can learn something very interesting today that will help you mold what you are working on into something worthwhile. Don't let an emotional encounter with someone ruin your plans. Stand up for your beliefs and your ideals. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Financial matters will turn out better than expected. Reevaluate personal or professional contracts. Don't let an emotional matter cause you to make a mistake. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Be sure that you are being honest with yourself and the people you deal with today. Think about what someone is telling you and consider whether this person is trying to manipulate a decision you have to make. Consider the consequences before making a promise. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Things will not be as they appear. As much as you try to sort through what someone wants or is really asking of you, you aren't likely to find out in time to make a decision. Emotional problems will influence your productivity. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You have an electric personality with vast intuitive insight. You are industrious, practical and in control. You are a great master but not necessarily a good student.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		8	2			4		
	9						2	
5			6	8				9
						6		3
		9	1		5	2		
8		7						
2				3	9			6
	4						5	
		6			1	8		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/26

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	9	8	2	4	6	7	5	3
2	5	6	7	9	3	8	1	4
4	7	3	8	1	5	9	2	6
3	1	9	5	8	2	6	4	7
6	8	7	1	3	4	2	9	5
5	4	2	9	6	7	1	3	8
8	2	4	3	7	1	5	6	9
9	3	5	6	2	8	4	7	1
7	6	1	4	5	9	3	8	2

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/25

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

POLISH WEDDINGS **Solution: 7 letters**

O	E	S	B	A	G	H	Z	C	Z	S	R	A	B	Z
E	C	Y	R	E	C	N	R	O	S	E	M	A	R	Y
L	N	C	E	R	E	M	O	N	Y	P	S	E	A	P
P	A	O	A	N	U	T	B	S	I	Y	K	H	I	M
U	D	M	D	S	O	R	S	E	M	O	T	N	D	O
O	S	U	I	N	I	M	R	B	W	L	N	I	I	T
C	T	C	M	D	U	O	O	I	A	I	Y	G	N	S
L	O	T	E	P	G	L	N	E	N	G	R	R	G	U
O	O	S	C	I	L	Y	W	G	U	N	W	O	R	C
T	R	A	D	I	T	I	O	N	S	I	O	O	V	S
H	H	O	P	E	R	I	N	G	S	D	D	M	O	E
A	E	T	W	H	F	C	W	G	R	N	K	G	D	V
N	A	S	S	A	L	T	L	I	S	I	I	I	K	A
D	D	A	O	I	L	G	N	E	N	B	S	F	A	E
(F)	(O)	(L)	(K)	R	A	K	L	O	P	E	S	T	E	L

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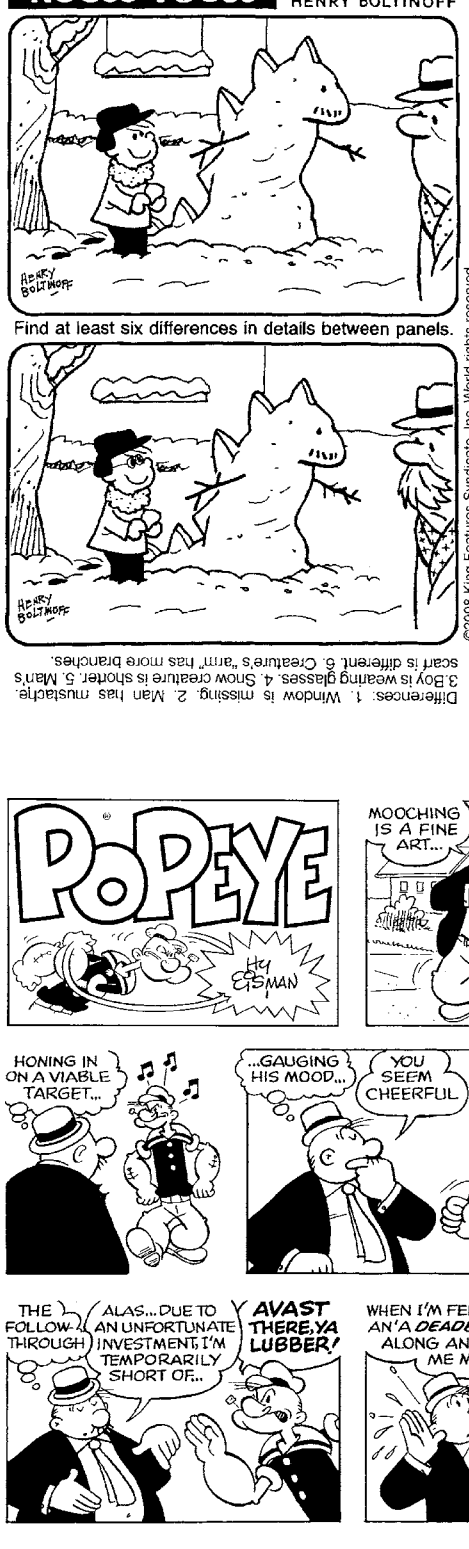
Barszcz, Beets, Binding, Braiding, Bread, Bride, Ceremony, Circle, Cloth, Couple, Crown, Custom, Dance, Dowry, Drink, Dumplings, Folk, Gift, Groom, Hair, Hand, Head, Hope, Kiss, Leaves, Loaf, March, Money, Music, Occasion, Pierogi, Pinning, Polka, Rings, Roots, Rosemary, Salt, Song, Symbol, Toast, Traditions, Undo, Unity, Vodka, Walk, Wealth, Wine, Zrekowiny

Yesterday's Answer: Anniversary

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume. to Wonderword. Universal Press Syndicate, 4520 Main St., Kansas City, Mo. 64111 or call toll-free 1-800-255-6734, ext. 6688. Order online at upuzzles.com.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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Differences: 1. Window is missing. 2. Man has mustache. 3. Boy is wearing glasses. 4. Snow creature is shorter. 5. Man's scarf is different. 6. Creature's "arm" has more branches.

Wishing Well®

4	6	2	5	3	7	2	4	2	6	7	8	7	
H	A	U	L	A	L	N	I	D	L	I	L	F	
6	2	7	2	3	7	2	8	6	3	4	6	5	
O	A	E	U	N	I	N	O	V	E	G	E	O	
6	8	2	8	6	2	3	8	6	4	2	4	7	
D	V	T	E	O	E	L	O	N	H	D	E	N	
6	2	3	2	5	8	6	2	4	7	4	7	6	
E	E	O	F	V	F	C	F	R	B	V	A	A	
2	4	6	3	4	8	6	8	7	6	8	2	7	
O	A	L	Q	L	L	L	U	L	S	X	R	A	
2	7	8	7	4	7	3	5	3	5	3	5	4	
T	N	U	C	U	E	U	E	E	A	N	B	E	
5	3	8	5	3	4	3	8	5	3	5	3	5	
O	T	R	U	I	S	D	Y	N	E	D	A	S	

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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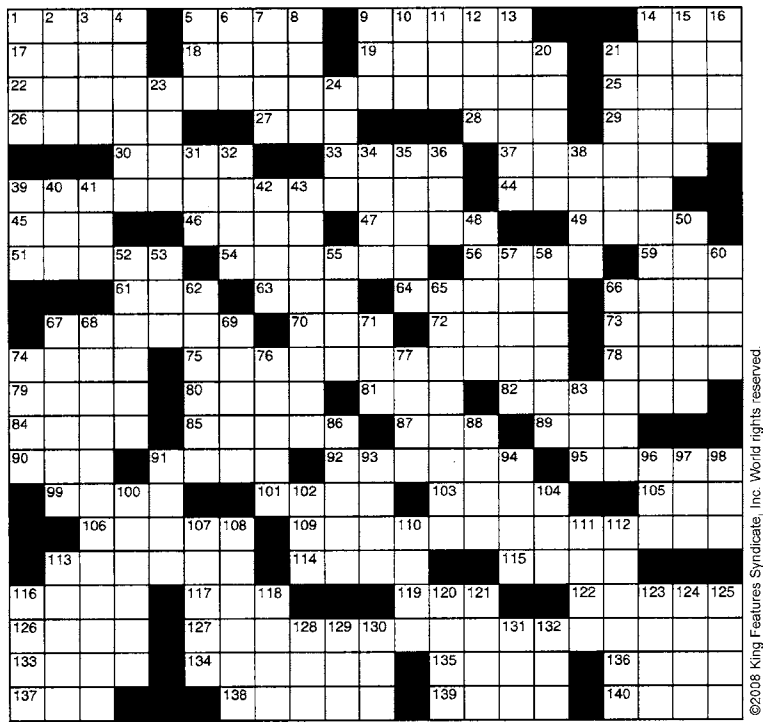
Super Crossword — FOR THE BIRDS

ACROSS
1 Sagan or Sandburg
5 Swarm sound
9 Montana city
14 Monterrey Mrs.
17 '58 Pulitzer winner
18 Piece of fencing?
19 He was "The Thing"
21 Pipe part
22 WREN
25 Brobdingnagian
26 For — (cheapiy)
27 Comic Costello
28 — Na Na
29 Mascagni opera
30 Poet Wilcox
33 Lohengrin's bird
37 African antelopes
39 LARK
44 "The Optimist's Daughter" author
45 Bonanza material
46 Coveleski or Musial
47 Vichyssoise veggie
49 Tip one's topper
51 Long-tailed parrot
54 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
56 Scandinavian city
59 Griffon greeting
61 Fool
63 Missouri airport abbr.
64 Valuable instrument
66 Stowe sight
67 Screenwriter Nora
70 Elf
72 Dash
73 Sarah — Jewett
74 Inland sea
75 QUAIL
78 Depravity
79 Easy stride
80 Bit of gossip
81 Parenthesis shape
82 Physicist Fermi
84 Corset part
85 Alfredo ingredient
87 British big shot
89 Monsarrat's "The Cruel —"
90 Tulsa commodity
91 Cheat at hide-and-seek
92 Preposterous
95 Sweetheart
99 Turn over
101 Darjeeling dress
103 Invasion
105 Frankfurter's field
106 Rent
109 CRANE
113 Church official
114 Oriental staple
115 Big rig
116 Channel
117 Actress Hagen
119 Plutarch character
122 Tole material
126 Be important
127 PARTRIDGE
133 Actor Novello
134 Kindle
135 Heart burn?
136 Time for a sandwich
137 According to
138 German port
139 Racing legend
140 Guy Fri.

DOWN
1 — Grande, AZ
2 FBI workers
3 "— Man" ('84 film)
4 Not as fatty
5 Neighbor of Ger.
6 Prosperous times
7 Non-nonchalance?
8 Nil
9 Crank's comment
10 Swiss canton
11 Explosive initials
12 Golfer's gadgets
13 Avoid
14 DUCK
15 Toomey or Philbin
16 Iowa city
20 Musty
21 Japanese religion
23 Hard on the eyes
24 Astrology term
31 Brown or Baxter
32 Vino center
34 Corduroy ridge
35 Writer Rogers St. Johns
36 Formerly known as
38 Moro of Italy
39 One who no's best?
40 Distinctive period
41 — room
42 Singer Elliot
43 Bete noire
48 Adorable Australian
50 Tenor Corelli
52 One of the Judds
53 Tolstoy title start
55 Coalition
57 Play ground?
58 Bedding
60 At large
62 Word with dog or state
65 "Never on Sunday" star
66 Good-humored
67 Amatory
68 CARDINAL
69 — Dame
71 Anaconda, for one
74 As well
76 Pursues
77 Coffee pots
83 Ring counter
86 Andretti or Cuomo
88 Fiber source
91 Swamp stuff
93 "Death of a Salesman" son
94 Pad
96 Ryan's "Love Story" co-star
97 Bud
98 Fluffy female
100 Crime writer Colin
102 PC key
104 SHAEF commander
107 "The March King"
108 Whole
110 Stamping ground
111 TV award
112 Strauss city
113 Debonair
116 — coffee
118 Energy source
120 One of a pair
121 South Seas novel
123 New Mexico resort
124 John of "Roots"
125 Expected back
128 Bossy's chew
129 Sugary suffix
130 Guys
131 College growth
132 Empower



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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: What kind of food is a morel?
2. LANGUAGE: What does the acronym "sonar" stand for?
3. HISTORY: Who were the two heavyweight fighters who participated in the 1975 "Thrilla in Manila" championship?
4. ANATOMY: What is the more common name for the tibia?
5. COMICS: What was the name of Bazooka Joe's girlfriend?
6. MOVIES: What was the name of the moon inhabited by the Ewoks in "Return of the Jedi"?
7. MUSIC: What are the names of the Gibbs brothers who made up The Bee Gees?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of the Cayman Islands?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who works at 10 Downing Street in London?
10. MEDICINE: What disease does the drug quinine treat?

Answers
1. Mushroom
2. Sound navigation and ranging
3. Muhammed Ali and Joe Frazier
4. Shinbone
5. Zena
6. Endor
7. Maurice, Robin and Barry
8. George Town
9. British prime minister
10. Malaria

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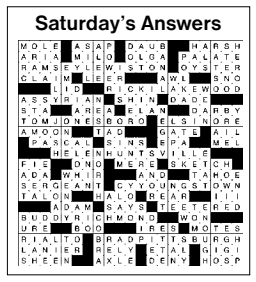
Saturday's Answers



POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
MOOCHING IS A FINE ART...
...DONE CORRECTLY IT CAN GARNER A SNACK OR EVEN A SEVEN-COURSE MEAL!
"CORRECTLY" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE!
HONING IN ON A VIABLE TARGET...
...GAUGING HIS MOOD...
YOU SEEM CHEERFUL
I YAMA HAPPY SWAB! EVER'THIN IS SHIP-SHAPE AN' ON AN EVEN KEEL!
DEVELOPING THE OPENING GAMBIT...
IF ONLY I COULD SHARE YOUR ELATION!
WHY CANTCHA ?!
THE FOLLOW-THROUGH
ALAS... DUE TO AN UNFORTUNATE INVESTMENT, I'M TEMPORARILY SHORT OF...
AVAST THERE, YA LUBBER!
WHEN I'M FEELIN' UPBEAT AN'A DEADBEAT COMES ALONG AN' SCUTTLES ME MOOD...
IT REALLY GITS ME TICKED!
IT'S MY SENSE OF TIMING THAT NEEDS A LITTLE WORK!
HEY EISMAN
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Amber Waves — by Dave T. Phipps

I'VE GOT AN IDEA HOW WE MIGHT COMMUNICATE BETTER WITH GERALD.
LET'S SIMPLY REASON WITH HIM LIKE HE'S JUST ANOTHER GROWN UP.
GERALD, TIME FOR SLEEP. THE HOUR IS VERY LATE.
I'M NOT TIRED.
OK, THAT DIDN'T WORK. LET'S GO BACK TO WHAT WORKS... "COUNTING TO THREE."
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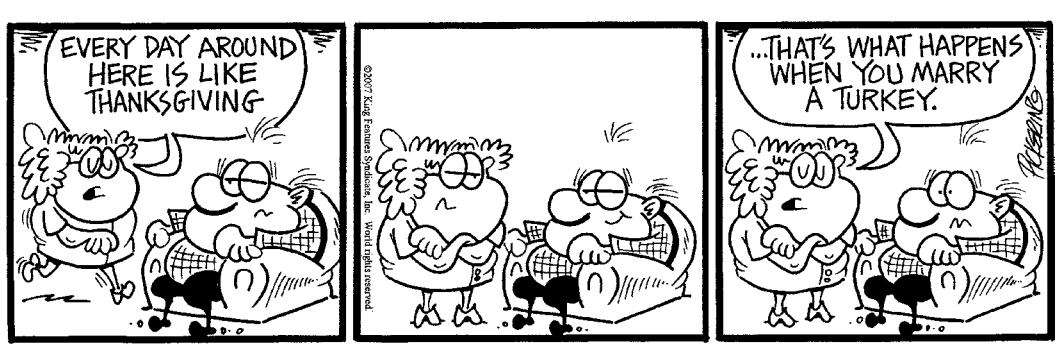
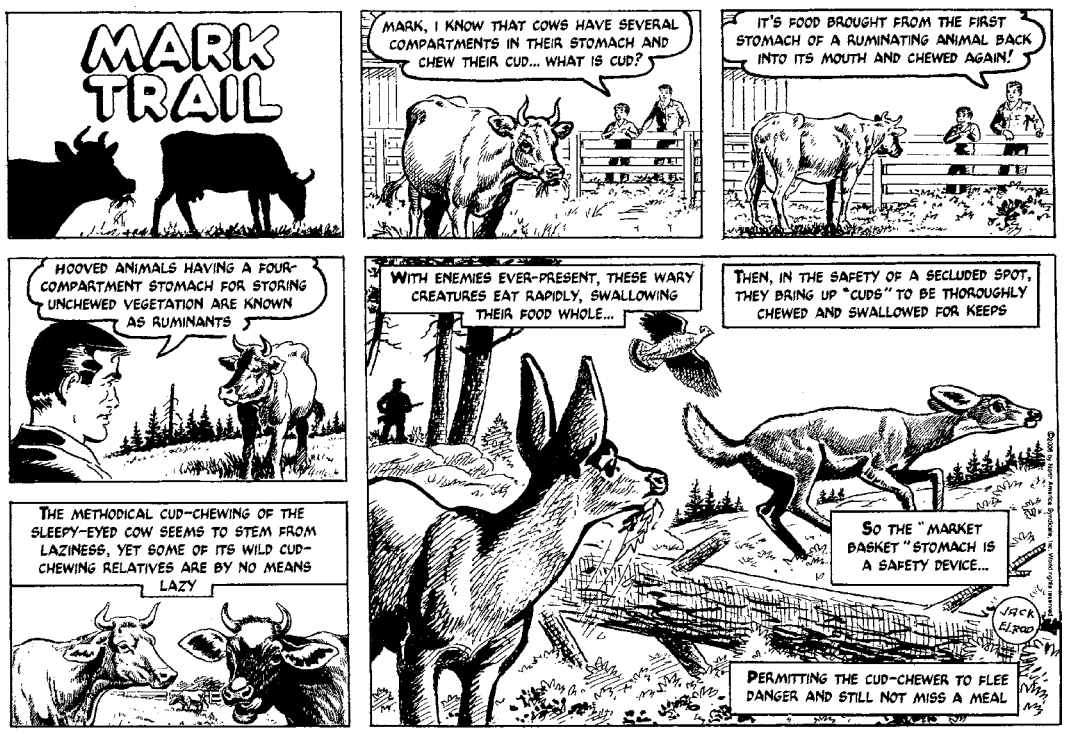
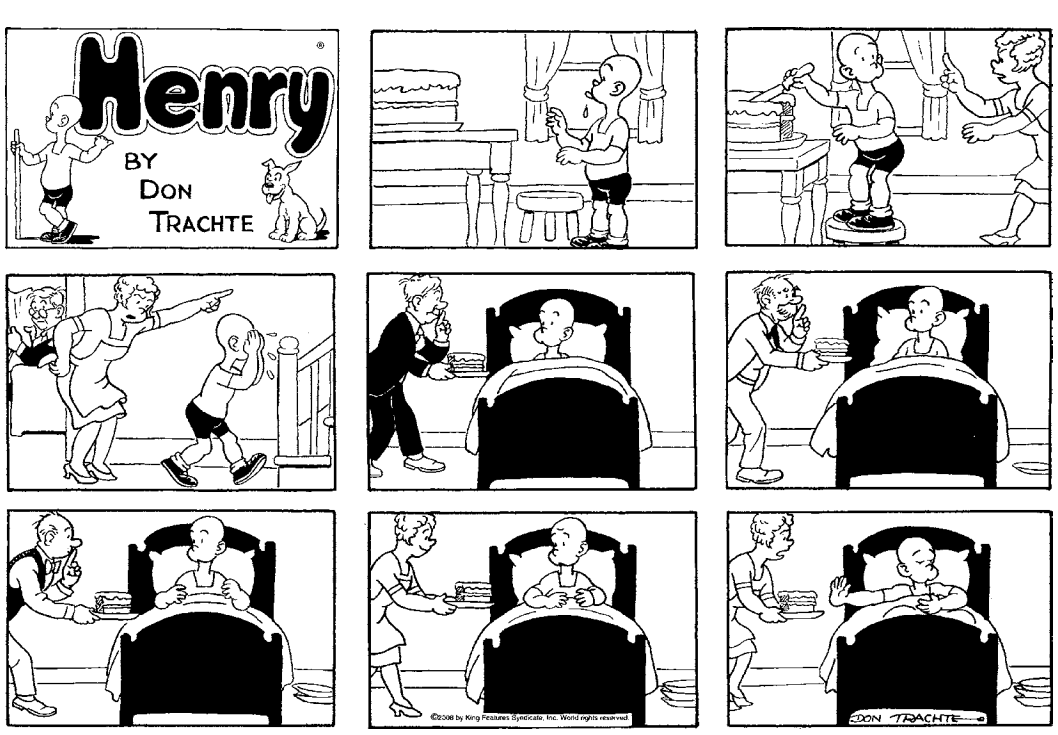
The Spats — by Jeff Pickering


EVERY DAY AROUND HERE IS LIKE THANKSGIVING
©2007 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
...THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU MARRY A TURKEY.


MARK TRAIL
MARK, I KNOW THAT COWS HAVE SEVERAL COMPARTMENTS IN THEIR STOMACH AND CHEW THEIR CUD... WHAT IS CUD?
IT'S FOOD BROUGHT FROM THE FIRST STOMACH OF A RUMINATING ANIMAL BACK INTO ITS MOUTH AND CHEWED AGAIN!
HOOVED ANIMALS HAVING A FOUR-COMPARTMENT STOMACH FOR STORING UNCHEWED VEGETATION ARE KNOWN AS RUMINANTS
WITH ENEMIES EVER-PRESENT, THESE WARY CREATURES EAT RAPIDLY, SWALLOWING THEIR FOOD WHOLE...
THEN, IN THE SAFETY OF A SECLUDED SPOT, THEY BRING UP "CUDS" TO BE THOROUGHLY CHEWED AND SWALLOWED FOR KEEPS
THE METHODICAL CUD-CHEWING OF THE SLEEPY-EYED COW SEEMS TO STEM FROM LAZINESS, YET SOME OF ITS WILD CUD-CHEWING RELATIVES ARE BY NO MEANS LAZY
SO THE "MARKET BASKET" STOMACH IS A SAFETY DEVICE...
PERMITTING THE CUD-CHEWER TO FLEE DANGER AND STILL NOT MISS A MEAL
JACK ELROD



CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT RESIDENTIAL

Apartment room for rent: Fully furnished 1 brm, T/B, 24-hr water $210/month, near Conwood | Tel. 287-1372, 235-6748

---

2 br furnished apartment w/ laundry facility. Beach Road. Close to beach walking path. $425/mo. Call 483-1974.

FOR SALE COMMERCIAL

Bud's Bar is now for sale $18K-$20K. Everything goes. Serious buyers only. Contact Les @ 233-1113, 898-4866

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7270)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; $100.00/food monthly; self arrange transportation; surety bond & medical. Contact: Richard T. Santos @235-0205.

---

1 AIRCON TECHNICIAN (ST 7271)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; transportation; medical & workmen's compensation are employer provided. Contact: JWS Air Conditioning & Ref., Inc. @235-5572/74.

---

1 MARKETING MANAGER (ST 7272)
Salary:$1,200.00-$2,500.00/monthly. Benefits: Worksman compensation; sick leave; vacation leave & medical insurance. Contact: Western Sales Trading Co., @322-6031.

---

1 BUILDER REPAIR & MAINTENANCE (ST 7273)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; free food & medical provided. Contact: Marty W.K. Taylor @235-0916.

---

1 ADMIN. ASST. (ST 7274)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (ST 7275)
Salary:$3.55-$4.50/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Amusement, Inc. @233-4397.

---

1 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER (ST 7276)
Salary:$10.00/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Guma Corporation dba Advance Construction Technology @234-5459.

---

1 HAND SEWER HELPER (ST 7277)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self housing; self food; provided workers compensation & medical expenses. Contact: Yong Jia Corp. @288-3839.

---

1 ARCADE ATTENDANT (ST 7278)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Medical reimbursable & workers compensation insurance. Contact: Jimin Enterprises, Inc. dba Grand Poker & Royal Casino @235-3455.

---

2 CARPENTER (ST 7279)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

1 CARPENTER (ST 7280)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Barracks (utilities $100.00); self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical. Contact: UNI-World International, Inc. dba UNI-World Construction Company @288-1312.

---

2 MASON (ST 7281)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workman compensation; medical & transportation. Contact: Apex Construction, Inc. dba Construction @288-0767.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7282)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; workmen's compensation & medical insurance. Contact: Danilo T. Aguilar dba R&B A/C, Refrigeration & Gen. Serv. @234-8801/235-5466.

---

1 MANAGER (INSURANCE) (ST 7283)
Salary:$3.55-$15.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical provided. Contact: Traders Insurance Company @234-7788.

---

1 SURVEYOR (ST 7284)
Salary:$3.55-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & workmen's compensation provided. Contact: Tropex Garden Co., Ltd. @288-7999.

---

1 COMPUTER TEACHER KINDERGARDEN (ST 7286)
Salary:$3.05-$7.00/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation insurance & medical insurance. Contact: Sister Remedios ECDC dba Preschool @234-6247.

---

1 GENERAL MANAGER (ST 7287)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: Guang International Corp. dba Cherry Gift Shop @483-5034.

1 MANAGER ASSISTANT (ST 7288)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: Guang International Corp. dba Cherry Gift Shop @483-5034.

---

2 ELECTRICIAN (ST 7289)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical; surety bond & workers compensation. Contact: JXYZ Corp. dba Saipan Souvenir Manufacture @285-0004.

---

1 HEAVY EUQIPMENT (MAINTENANCE) MECHANIC (ST 7290)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation; surety bond & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

1 INTERPRETER (ST 7291)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Surety bond; workers compensation & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

1 GENERAL MANAGER (ST 7292)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Surety bond; workers compensation & medical. Contact: YS Corp. dba YS Construction @483-5822.

---

1 COMMERCIAL CLEANER (ST 7293)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: D.Y. Corporation @233-1212.

---

2 CERTIFIED FAA AIRCRAFT MECHANIC (ST 7294)
Salary:$2,200.00-$2,400.00/monthly. Benefits: Medical & workman's compensation provided. Contact: Pacific Airport Services @235-4000.

---

1 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN (ST 7295)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Medical & work compensation provided. Contact: Bobbies Café @235-2624.

---

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7296)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Free housing; self provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Horizons, Inc. @323-8882/85.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7297)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $50.00/monthly deductible housing; $50.00/monthly deductible food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Albert O. Tiu @323-8882/85.

---

1 COST ACCOUNTANT (ST 7298)
Salary:$7.60-$8.60/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

NEW Rattan Furniture FOR SALE
Expensive material
Call 235-4791,
433-9616, 285-7446

Ramon Angailen Tebuteb
Messalina Deleon Guerrero Aldan
Chichirica Ave., P.O. Box 500971
Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950

Telephone No.: (670) 233-6479

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR ADOPTION OF: KRAA A Minor Child By: Ramon A. Tebuteb Messalina DLG Aldan Petitioners,	)	**FCD AD CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0017** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 7, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205A, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 18th day of January, 2008.

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

JOE HILL, Esq.,
HILL LAW OFFICES
P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
FAX: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

YOLANDA F. TORRES-AUSTRIA Petitioner versus **ROGELIO AUSTRIA,** Respondent.	)	FCD DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0410 **SUMMONS**

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Petition for Divorce.

By order of the above Court:

Dated this 12th day of July, 2007.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

As added service to our valued customers, you may now submit all your JVA placements for announcement/publication in *Saipan Tribune's* print and online edition and KZMI/KCNM at the same time. No more worries of having to go to two different locations every time you need to place job vacancy announcements. Special rates are available for JVA customers under this arrangement.

Print*

• 1st position	$10
• 2nd position	$3
• Succeeding positions	$1

Combo (Print and Online)*

• 1st position	$13
• 2nd position	$4
• Succeeding positions	$2

Radio (KCNM/KZMI)

• Up to 6 positions	$5
• More than 6 positions	$10

LOWER RATES! Effective Feb. 3, 2007

*These rates apply to all vacancy announcements that include corresponding benefits and which announcements are all under the same company name.

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

Monday Through Friday Issues: All ads placed before 12 noon will come out the next publication date.

Saturday And Sunday Issues:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

- KCNM/KZMI: All ads placed on Friday (9am to 5pm) will be for Monday's radio announcement.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

1 ELECTRICIAN (ST 7299)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

3 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7300)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing (2) employer provided shared housing (1); employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

3 COOK (ST 7301)
Salary:$4.10-$5.10/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing (1) self provided housing (2); employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 BARTENDER (ST 7302)
Salary:$3.55-$4.05/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 BAKER (ST 7303)
Salary:$3.55-$4.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7304)
Salary:$6.50-$7.50/hour. Benefits: Employer provided shared housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7305)
Salary:$5.00-$6.00/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

1 HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR (ST 7306)
Salary:$4.00-$4.25/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; employer provided meals; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Inter Pacific Resorts Corp. dba Pacific Islands Club Saipan @234-7976.

---

1 SHIP FITTER (ST 7307)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance-100% medical & dental, workers compensation. Contact: Seabridge, Inc. dba Seabridge, Inc. @322-7344.

1 WELDING TECHNICIAN (ST 7308)
Salary:$4.75/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance-100% medical & dental, workers compensation. Contact: Seabridge, Inc. dba Seabridge, Inc. @322-7344.

---

1 CARPENTER (ST 7309)
Salary:$5.00/hour. Benefits: Free housing if no A/C; medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: Triple J Saipan, Inc. @234-1795.

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2 WAITRESS/WAITER (ST 7310)
Salary:$3.55-$4.15/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing allowance; 2 duty meals; shared cost medical insurance; vacation leave & workers compensation. Contact: WDI Saipan, Inc. dba Tony Roma's/ Capricciosa @322-7516.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7311)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical & work compensation. Contact: Scot Thompson @287-6379.

---

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7312)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: self provided housing; self provided food; free medical insurance; workers compensation insurance & as well as duty meal. Contact: RYU Corporation @287-5918.

2 CASHIER (ST 7317)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan Dolphin Corporation dba Dolphin Wholesale/Mart @235-5429.

1 GEN. MAINT. WORKER (ST 7318)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan Dolphin Corporation dba Dolphin Wholesale/Mart @235-5429.

1 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER (ST 7319)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan Dolphin Corporation dba Dolphin Wholesale/Mart @235-5429.

---

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER INDUSTRIAL (ST 7320)
Salary:$3.55-$7.50/hour. Benefits: Company provided housing; self provided food; health insurance & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc. dba Rainbow & Sherwin Williams Paint @234-1717/235-7233.

---

1 AUTO BODY REPAIRER (ST 7321)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self provide housing; self provide food; medical & workers compensation. Contact: Javili General Partnership dba YJC Auto Shop @235-4928.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7322)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deductible housing; $100.00/deductible food & medical provided. Contact: Guerrero, Joseph @483-4116.

---

1 H.E. OPERATOR (ST 7323)
Salary:$4.00/hour. Benefits: Employer provided housing; employee provided food; medical & workmen's compensation. Contact: Pacific Drilling Ltd. @235-8531.

---

1 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER GEN. (ST 7313)
Salary:$4.50/hour. Benefits: Self provided housing; self provided food; free medical insurance & workers compensation insurance. Contact: RYU Corporation @287-5918.

---

1 KITCHEN HELPER (ST 7314)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arranged housing; meals (no charge); medical & workmen's compensation coverage & own transportation. Contact: Rong Hua Corporation @233-4825.

---

1 HOUSEWORKER (ST 7315)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Self arrange housing; free food & medical. Contact: Celina D. Taylor @235-0916.

---

2 WAREHOUSE MAN (ST 7316)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: Saipan Dolphin Corporation dba Dolphin Wholesale/ Mart @235-5429.

1 SALES ENGINEER (ST 7324)
Salary:$4.16/hour. Benefits: $200.00/housing monthly allowance; $150.00/food monthly allowance; medical insurance; workmen's compensation; self arranged housing & self arranged food. Contact: Carrier Guam, Inc. Saipan Branch @234-8330/8347.

---

1 AUTO MECHANIC (ST 7325)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workmen's compensation; bonding & medical (as per contract). Contact: Philpan International Corp. dba MC-Asia International. @235-6100/6695.

1 ACCOUNTANT (ST 7326)
Salary:$1,200.00/monthly. Benefits: Workmen's compensation; bonding & medical (as per contract). Contact: Philpan International Corp. dba MC-Asia International. @235-6100/6695.

---

1 SECURITY GUARD (ST 7327)
Salary:$3.30-$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/housing monthly; employee provided food; medical & workmans compensation employer provided. Contact: Joseph T. Torres dba Courtney's Plaza @235-1662.

---

1 PROFESSOR (ST 7328)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: ER provided housing at a free of charge; self provided food; medical provided & workman compensation provided. Contact: Frank C. Agulto dba Saipan's Quality Products @323-8248.

---

1 MAINTENANCE (TH 4645)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Workers compensation & medical benefits. Contact: American Sunny Corporation @287-0909.

---

1 CIVIL ENGINEER (TH 4646)
Salary:$3.55-$6.50/hour. Benefits: Worksmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. @234-7492.

1 KITCHEN HELPER (TH 4647)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Worksmens compensation & medical. Contact: Allied Construction Corp. dba Barnys Pizza @234-7492.

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1 WAITRESS/WAITER (TH 4648)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. @233-9468.

1 MASSEUSE/MASSEUR (TH 4649)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Paid medical & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. @233-9468.

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1 ASSISTANT MANAGER (TH 4650)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: Medical insurance & workers compensation. Contact: American K&W Corp. dba Color Beauty Salon @233-9468.

---

1 FARMER (TH 4651)
Salary:$3.55/hour. Benefits: $100.00/deduction housing; $100.00/deduction food & medical. Contact: Anthony T. Benavente @322-2663/285-5396.

The Saipan Tribune now offers

Classified Ads Super Saver Package

for Print and Online Editions

A complete 7-day run for car sales, employment, garage sales, apartment rentals, announcements, lost and found, business services, and more…

3-LINER AD $25

3-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $45

5-LINER AD $35

5-LINER AD W/ PHOTO $55

Get results. Advertise now!

Call now at 235-2769 for more details.

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Subscribe to CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

235-NEWS

Federer-Djokovic set for semifinal match

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Top-ranked Roger Federer will meet No. 3 Novak Djokovic in a semifinal match Friday that will determine who faces unheralded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the Australian Open final.

Rafael Nadal, ranked No. 2, was dominated in stunning fashion Thursday by Tsonga, who won in straight sets 6-2, 6-3, 6-2.

Nadal played well against the 38th-ranked Tsonga, who had never gone beyond the fourth round in his four previous Grand Slams. But the Frenchman was virtually untouchable, smashing 17 aces against one of the best serve returners in the game.

Nadal finished with just 12 unforced errors—four combined in the first two sets—while matching the fewest games he has won in a Grand Slam, against Andy Roddick at the 2003 U.S. Open.

Tsonga had 49 winners and didn't face any break points until the third set, when he saved three in one game to finish Nadal's final serious challenge.

"It's unbelievable, just amazing," Tsonga said. "Nothing can stop me today. It's like a dream. Every day is like a dream. I can't believe it's true."

On the women's side, fourth-ranked Ana Ivanovic staged a dramatic comeback, losing the first eight games before ousting No. 9 Daniela Hantuchova 0-6, 6-3, 6-4 to reach her second Grand Slam final.

She will meet No. 5 Maria Sharapova, who was sharp again in overwhelming Serbia's Jelena Jankovic 6-3, 6-1. Third-seeded Jankovic saw any hopes for her own rally ended by back pain.

While Nadal is popular, Tsonga has been adopted by the Melbourne Park fans for his go-for-broke style and outgoing personality. He frequently had them standing and cheering with his mix of power and an amazingly deft net game.

Nadal got a quick taste of what was ahead as Tsonga jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first. After watching one untouchable service return zip past, Nadal simply stared at him, almost in disbelief.

As three other seeded players already had learned here, this guy is for real.

Tsonga picked up volleys off his feet. Constantly changing speed and spin, he slugged it out with Nadal from the baseline the way few players can. And anytime he got close to trouble, he pulled out his big serve to bail him out, forcing Nadal to stand three steps behind the baseline to receive.

He broke Nadal at love to finish off the first set, then reveled in the cheers, encouraging the fans to yell even louder like an orchestra conductor.

With Nadal serving at 3-4 in the second set, Tsonga set up break point with a lunging backhand volley that left him with his back facing the net, then raised his finger to indicate "One more." He smacked a blistering service return on the next point and followed with another stinging shot to set up an easy overhead for the only break he needed.

Serving for the set, Tsonga blasted two aces, then another serve that clipped the net and landed on the line. Nadal challenged the call, clearly unwilling to give Tsonga another chance—and for good reason. The call stood, and Tsonga rang up another ace.

AP

Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France returns to Spain's Rafael Nadal in a Men's singles semi final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 24, 2008.

Tsonga broke for the seventh time in the third set, then served for the match at 5-2, finishing it off with another ace. He briefly looked stunned that it was actually over, then jumped around the court in celebration.

Sharapova has shown focus and determination to get back to the women's final after losing to Serena Williams last year.

"You have your bad moments in your career and you have your good moments, and it's been a good ride so far," said the Russian, who has yet to drop a set in six matches and earlier ended No. 1 Justine Henin's 32-match winning streak. "But it's not over yet."

With Rod Laver Arena's roof closed due to a light rain, Jankovic looked anxious and tight. It didn't help that Sharapova, seeking her third Grand Slam title was whacking winners everywhere.

Jankovic fended off three set points while serving at 0-5 in the first set to take her first game, earning a big cheer from the crowd that included a strong presence from Melbourne's sizable Serbian community.

Sharapova, her high-pitched grunts sounding more like shrieks, just pounded the ball even harder, smacking an ace to set up her sixth set point, then getting to a drop shot for a clean winner.

Jankovic double-faulted three times as Sharapova broke to start the second set, then got treatment for lower back pain.

"I wanted to withdraw, but it was a semifinal," Jankovic said.

The second match started as a near-replay. Ivanovic said her fans helped her rally.

"If it wasn't for you guys, I would already be booking my flight back home," she told the crowd.

Ivanovic, who beat Venus Williams in the previous round, won only nine points in the first set.

"I think she didn't miss a ball," Ivanovic said of Hantuchova. "I just tried to tell myself that she can't keep up that level throughout the whole match. I knew I would get a chance at some point."

When Ivanovic finally held for her first game while already down 0-2 in the second set, the crowd erupted in cheers of sympathetic relief.

The small victory provided just what she needed - a jolt of confidence. She broke twice to even the match.

Hantuchova fended off a break point while serving at 4-4 in the third set and set herself up to save another with a drop volley. Ivanovic scrambled to keep it in play but was out of court when Hantuchova netted an easy volley.

Hantuchova wasn't sure what happened to her.

"If I knew that I think I would have changed it while I was still on the court," she said.

Woods 2 shots back at Buick Invitational

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Tiger Woods delivered the score he expected in his 2008 debut, just not the game. Despite playing from the sand, rough and behind a few trees early in his round, Woods began a much-anticipated season Thursday with a 5-under 67 on the tougher South Course at Torrey Pines.

That left him two shots behind Troy Matteson, and gave him a strong presence on the leaderboard as he goes for his fourth straight title in the Buick Invitational.

"It wasn't pretty off the tee, but I hung in there," Woods said. "Shooting 67 is always going to feel pretty good on the South Course."

Imagine how it felt for Matteson.

He ran off five birdies in a six-hole stretch on the back nine, then finished his round with consecutive birdies to become the first player since Davis Love III in 2000 to have the first-round lead while playing the South.

"I won't top that for awhile," Matteson said.

Brad Adamonis had a 66 on the North Course, which is 600 yards shorter and played more than two strokes easier.

Rory Sabbatini, Stuart Appleby and Kevin Streelman, who began the day as the third alternate, were in the group at 67 with Woods. They all played on the North, which is where Matteson and Woods play on Friday.

Phil Mickelson opened his season with a 70 on the North.

Matteson was 11 shots better than his last trip around the South Course. That was the final round a year ago, when he played alongside Woods and watched the world's No. 1 player turn an ordinary round into a winner.

Maybe someone of that rubbed off on Matteson.

"That's an experience that any player would remember," Matteson said. "Anytime you get paired with Tiger, it's very interesting from a crowd standpoint, from a what-he-does standpoint. It's just pretty neat to see the guy shoot 66 on Sunday to win."

Woods, who hasn't played since winning his Target World Challenge by seven shots on Dec. 16, wasn't the only person returning to work.

Golf Channel anchor Kelly Tilghman was back in the booth after a two-week suspension for jokingly suggesting young players wanting to take on Woods should "lynch him in a back alley." She recorded an apology that opened the telecast.

That seemed to end a month's worth of troublesome news in golf outside the ropes—Tilghman's suspension, the firing of a magazine editor for putting a noose on the cover, and the death of popular caddie Steve Duplantis in Del Mar early Tuesday.

But maybe there's more tension to follow.

Woods put his name atop the leaderboard with a chip-and-putt birdie on the par-5 13th, his name right below Sabbatini's. And after the round, the chilly air dropped a few more degrees.

They have not spoken since Sabbatini withdrew from the final round of the Target for what his agent described as shin splints, pocketing $170,000, and Woods said the South African has never called to explain what happened.

"I haven't talked to him about any of it," Woods said. "It is what it is."

Sabbatini donated the money Tuesday to the United Through Reading Military program at a ceremony for sailors at the Navy assault ship USS Boxer. Asked if the money came from his withdraw at the Target, Sabbatini said, "That's what the situation was."

"Unfortunately, the media took a lot of criticism toward me after the event, in that situation I was there," Sabbatini said. "I was tired, and we thought about it, and we thought we'd put it some good use."

Sabbatini was asked to describe his relationship with Woods.

"As far as I understand, there's no animosity," he said. "We're both competitors and we both want to win."

But as he walked out of the interview tent, with Woods waiting to enter, Sabbatini kept his eyes glued to the ground and Woods made no effort to speak to him. Told about the donation, Woods said, "Oh. That's good."

The way the start of this season has gone, it wouldn't be surprising to seem them paired together on the weekend. But this tournament doesn't take shape until two days, when everyone gets a crack at two courses that couldn't be more different.

Woods doesn't always overwhelm the North course, which is playing slightly more difficult in cold air and a stiff breeze, and with two par 3s that have been lengthened.

"The key is take care of the par 5s and then try and sprinkle in a few more (birdies) here and there where you can," Woods said.

He didn't fare that great on the par 5s at the South, playing them in only 1 under. But he did enough to get the attention of anyone who might have missed him over the last four months on the PGA Tour. Woods hit only two fairways on the front nine, but picked up birdies with a 10-footer on No. 4 and chipping in from 25 feet on the par-3 eighth.

He also hit 7-iron out of the rough on No. 10 to 4 feet, and holed a 25-foot birdie on the par-3 11th. His lone mistake was a chip from short of the 16th green that bounced high and soft, staying 10 feet below the hole.

So why was swing in control everywhere but on the tee?

"Your guess is as good as mine," Woods said. "I had a low, left ball or a spinny, high right. Kind of hard to aim when you've got both of those things going."

Iverson rallies to earn All-Star start

NEW YORK (AP)—With a late rally, Allen Iverson is an All-Star starter again.

Iverson surged from behind in the fan voting to earn a starting spot in next month's game when the vote totals were released Thursday night. Denver Nuggets teammate Carmelo Anthony will join him in New Orleans after earning his first starting nod.

Lakers star Kobe Bryant will team with Iverson in the Western Conference backcourt for his 10th All-Star appearance. Houston center Yao Ming was voted in by the fans for the sixth straight season at center, while San Antonio's Tim Duncan was chosen as the other forward. He has been selected to every All-Star game since entering the league in 1997.

Boston's Kevin Garnett, the MVP of the 2003 game, was the leading vote-getter with 2,399,148 votes. He will be joined in the East frontcourt by Cleveland forward LeBron James and Orlando center Dwight Howard, a first-time starter. Miami's Dwyane Wade and New Jersey guard Jason Kidd round out the starting lineup.

Iverson rallied to pass Houston's Tracy McGrady in the final weeks of voting to earn his first start since moving to the Western Conference early last season. He started seven straight All-Star games while playing for Philadelphia, but fell short last year after the 76ers dealt him to the Nuggets in December 2006.

The two-time MVP of the All-Star game beat McGrady by 10,410 votes for the second guard spot and will make his ninth appearance on Feb. 17 in New Orleans.

"It's a good feeling. I think it's a tribute to my teammates and coaching staff because without those guys none of that would be possible," Iverson said in a statement. "But most of all I just want to thank the fans for appreciating what I go out and do on the court night in and night out. It's just a great feeling and an honor, and I'm just looking forward to trying to play the best that I can play for the fans."

Denver hasn't had two starters on the squad since Alex English and Fat Lever were both named to the team in 1988. For Anthony, it's his second straight All-Star selection.

"It feels like I'm over the hump now and people are starting to realize the hard work that I put in to get here," he said. "It's all because of the fans. They're obviously liking what they've been seeing out of me and the production that I'm giving out there on the court this season. It's finally starting to pay off."

Garnett, another perennial starter, will experience the game from the other conference for the first time.

The Boston forward will appear in his 11th straight All-Star game, second among active players to Shaquille O'Neal's 14, and ninth start. The longtime Minnesota Timberwolves star is a leading MVP candidate at midseason for the impact he has made on the Celtics, who own the NBA's best record at 33-7 after winning only 24 games last season.

"It's appreciated," he said earlier Thursday of his expected selection. "Without these great teammates of mine, coaching staff, it wouldn't be possible. I'm fortunate to be in the position where I can say we're winning and that feels good and I'm happy to be part of that.

"At the end of the day, these individuals awards are what they are, individual, but without Ray (Allen), Paul (Pierce), (Rajon) Rondo, (Eddie) House, I wouldn't be where I am."

Iverson was more than 80,000 votes behind McGrady, who has struggled with injuries this season, when the final update was released two weeks ago. He ended up with 1,203,152 votes. McGrady finished with 1,192,742.

James, the MVP of the 2006 game and the leading vote-getter last season, was second overall with 2,108,831 votes. He said he never looks at getting selected as tiresome.

"It's always exciting because the fans vote you in. They vote me in as a starter every year," James said. "Without the fans there's no us. They dream about having all these guys out on the court at the same time. It's their opportunity to get that. It's always special."

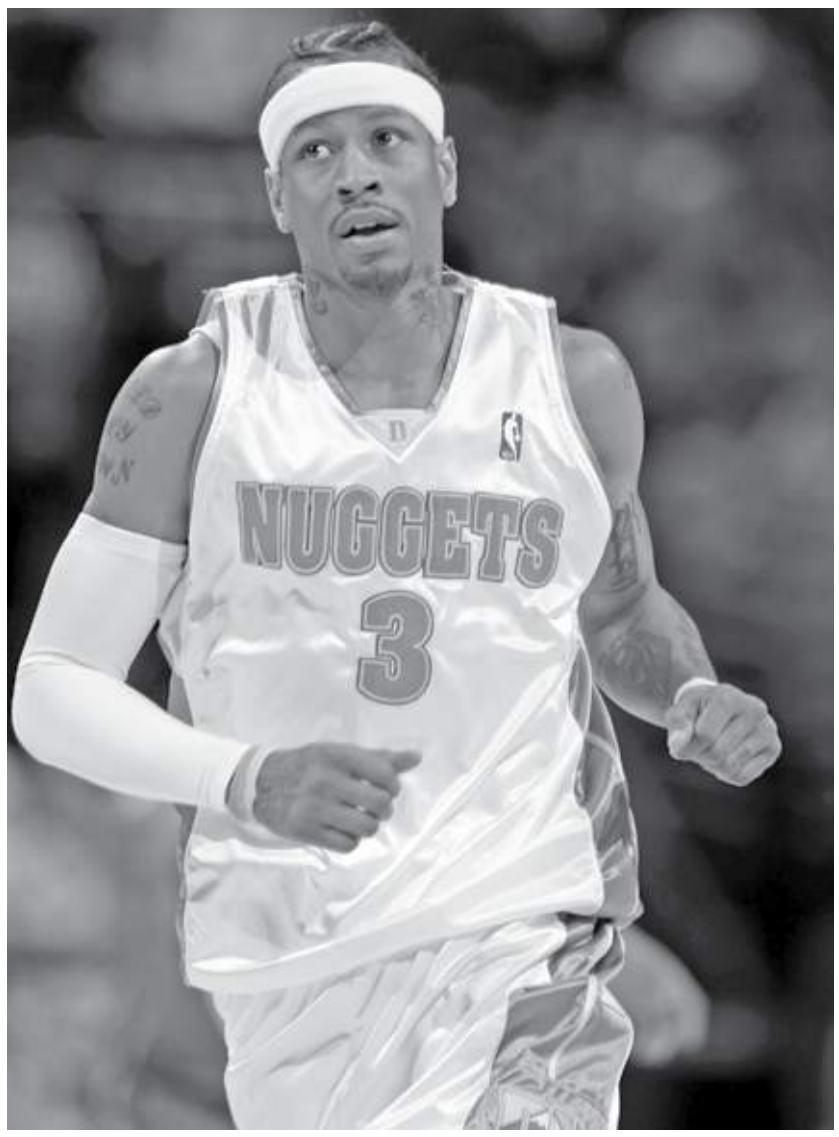
The festivities in New Orleans give Wade, making his third consecutive start, a chance to escape what's been a miserable season in Miami. The Heat have the worst record in the Eastern Conference, just 1 1/2 years after winning the NBA title.

"It'll be the first enjoyment in a while," Wade said. "Being an All-Star, it's amazing to be there with the other great players around the league. It's a special weekend. Everyone makes you feel so special. It'll be great, and it totally takes your mind off your season."

Kidd is a nine-time All-Star, but this is the first time he was voted a starter by the fans since coming to New Jersey in 2001.

The coaches from each conference will choose the reserves, who will be announced next Thursday. They have to select two forwards, two guards, a center and two players regardless of position.

Boston's Doc Rivers has already clinched the right to coach the East. The West coach hasn't been determined.



Denver Nuggets guard Allen Iverson runs up the court against the Orlando Magic during an NBA basketball game in Denver on Jan. 11, 2008.

AP

Belichick won't discuss Brady's health

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick stayed true to form Thursday, refusing to discuss Tom Brady's health a few days after the quarterback was photographed limping in New York with a cast on his right foot.

"I don't have any comment on it," he said in a news conference before the Patriots held their first practice in preparation for the Feb. 3 Super Bowl against the New York Giants.

Brady did not show up during the first 15 minutes of practice, when reporters are allowed to observe, and it was not immediately known if he would play after the session was closed to the media. Patriots spokesman Stacey James said the team would not announce whether Brady participated in any part of the workout.

The next practice participation report will be issued Wednesday, James said.

Brady wasn't seen in the locker room before practice during the 45 minutes it was open to the media.

When asked at the news conference earlier if Brady would practice, Belichick said: "We'll go out there. I don't know."

"The injury report will be out next Wednesday and we're excited to get that to you," he said to laughter from reporters, "filled out completely and I can't wait to get that to you because I know you're anxious for it."

Brady, this season's NFL MVP, had been dogged by photographers outside the New York City apartment of his supermodel girlfriend since the photographs surfaced Monday showing him wearing the boot and carrying a bouquet of flowers.

"I focused on the flowers," defensive end Richard Seymour said with a smile before Thursday's practice.

Brady was later seen in New York walking without a cast. He reportedly has a mild high ankle sprain.

Belichick said Brady is rarely distracted, on or off the field.

"I think Tom's one of the toughest players on our team both mentally and physically," the coach said. "He works hard ... He's very calm. He's a great competitor but he's very calm."

Several players shied away from the issue.

"You'll have to ask Tom about anything pertaining to him and his ankle," wide receiver Wes Welker said.

"That has nothing to do with me, man, next question," cornerback Ellis Hobbs said.

"I didn't see the video and I don't know anything about it," safety Rodney Harrison said.

Running back Kevin Faulk and defensive lineman Jarvis Green have both worn protective boots in the past. Green said he played in the next game after wearing the boot in college at LSU. When Faulk wore it, he didn't get nearly the attention Brady did.

"Because I'm not Tom Brady, I guess," Faulk said. "I don't know. It's just crazy. That's all."

Another blown lead, another defeat as Miami slides to 15th loss against Spurs

MIAMI (AP)—The Miami Heat gave up another double-digit lead and lost for the 15th straight game, going down 90-89 to the San Antonio Spurs in the NBA on Thursday.

Tim Duncan had 30 points and 11 rebounds and Manu Ginobili's driving layup with 36.5 seconds left was the go-ahead score as the Spurs rallied to win.

Miami led by 10 in the third quarter but managed only eight points over the final 8:50. This slide is two shy of matching the franchise futility record.

Dwyane Wade scored 27 points and added nine assists for Miami, but lost the ball while driving for what could have been the winning score with 3 seconds left.

Wade laid on the court after his final turnover, declining when fellow All-Star starter Duncan offered to help him up, and just stared at the scoreboard as the crowd began heading for exits.

Warriors 121, Nets 119

In Oakland, California, Golden State scored 22 consecutive points, blew a 13-point lead but came back to beat New Jersey in a wild fourth quarter.

Monta Ellis scored a career-high 39 points, hitting four free throws in the final minute to finally make the game safe for the Warriors. New Jersey lost its seventh straight despite an impressive fourth-quarter rally. It is their longest skid in more than three years.

Bucks 104, Pacers 92

In Milwaukee, Michael Redd scored 37 points to lead Milwaukee past Indiana.

Andrew Bogut had 17 points and 11 rebounds for the Bucks.

Redd scored 10 points in the fourth quarter, playing every minute of the second half and 45 minutes overall as the Bucks won for only the second time in eight games.

Indiana has lost three of four since star forward Jermaine O'Neal went out with a bruised left knee.

Clemens considering Astros' invitation

HOUSTON (AP)—Roger Clemens is deciding whether to accept an invitation to appear at a Houston Astros pitching camp next week.

"He knows he is welcome and appreciates the Astros standing by him," Clemens' agent, Randy Hendricks, wrote Tuesday in an e-mail to The Associated Press. "He would love to be with the kids, but doesn't want to be a distraction. He will decide later what to do."

The Nolan Ryan Elite Pitching Camp and Jeff Bagwell Elite Hitting Camp begin Monday at Minute Maid Park. In previous years, Clemens has helped out at the pitching camp.

Astros spokesman Jimmy Stanton declined to comment.

Clemens pitched for his hometown Astros from 2004-06, winning the 2004 NL Cy Young Award.

In last month's Mitchell Report on performance-enhancing drugs in baseball, Clemens' former trainer, Brian McNamee, said he injected the pitcher with steroids and human growth hormone in 1998, 2000 and 2001, accusations the seven-time Cy Young Award winner has denied.

Clemens' lawyer has said he will appear before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee at a Feb. 13 hearing on steroids in baseball. Clemens was asked to speak Saturday to committee staff, one of five depositions or transcribed interviews scheduled by the committee before the hearing next month.

Clemens has often said how much he enjoyed tutoring young Astros prospects during his time in Houston.

Hocog victorious at Top Pool Bar

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Vic. S. Hocog returned to prominence in the Top Pool Bar Professional 9-Ball Billiards Tournament last Jan. 19 at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

Hocog reached the summit of the weekly 9-ball competition after playing his cards right against Top Pool Bar owner Zheng Jian Qing in the finals.

After both cue artists split the first six games, Hocog "fished" Zheng to making a mistake in the crucial seventh game, which resulted in the latter accidentally pocketing the 9-ball after hitting the 2-ball.

Hocog said that he had no choice but give Zheng the shot because he didn't had a chance on his own shot.

He said the win wasn't much of a surprise because of the hard work he has been putting on the green felt table,

"I've been practicing a lot lately over there at Top Pool Bar. Almost every night I play and I've been training for almost two months now," he said. "I also don't drink while playing. I just buy orange juice or Pepsi. I'm encouraging everyone to come down to Top Pool Bar to shoot pool. If they want, I could teach anyone who wants to learn."

Hocog also joked that those who want to play good billiards should buy their cue sticks at Fish and Tackle.

"They have good quality sticks there and I bought mine there so that's why I won."

The victory was worth $45 for the menacing-looking but affable Hocog, while Zheng settled for the $25 runner-up prize.

Hocog got a bye in the first round, but earned a finals trip after blanking Robert Sanciango in the second round, 4-0.

Zheng, meanwhile, started the evening with a 4-1 win over Rico Montano in the first round and then followed it up with a hard-earned and energy zapping 4-3 victor over Erwin Gomez.

Other players that took part in the tournament were Rolly Villanueva and Luis "Predator" Fajardo. Villanueva was ousted by Gomez in the opening round, while Fajardo suffered the same against Sanciangco.

Hocog

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	33	7	.825	_
Toronto	23	19	.548	11
New Jersey	18	24	.429	16
Philadelphia	16	27	.372	18 1/2
New York	13	28	.317	20 1/2

Southeast Division

Orlando	27	17	.614	_
Washington	22	18	.550	3
Atlanta	17	21	.447	7
Charlotte	16	26	.381	10
Miami	8	33	.195	17 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	30	13	.698	_
Cleveland	23	18	.561	6
Indiana	19	25	.432	11 1/2
Chicago	17	24	.415	12
Milwaukee	17	26	.395	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

New Orleans	29	12	.707	_
Dallas	28	13	.683	1
San Antonio	28	13	.683	1
Houston	23	19	.548	6 1/2
Memphis	12	30	.286	17 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	25	16	.610	_
Portland	25	17	.595	1/2
Utah	24	18	.571	1 1/2
Seattle	9	33	.214	16 1/2
Minnesota	7	34	.171	18

Pacific Division

Phoenix	30	13	.698	_
L.A. Lakers	27	13	.675	1 1/2
Golden State	26	18	.591	4 1/2
Sacramento	18	23	.439	11
L.A. Clippers	13	25	.342	14 1/2

Yesterday's Games
Milwaukee 104, Indiana 92
San Antonio 90, Miami 89
Golden State 121, New Jersey 119

BUICK INVITATIONAL SCORES

First Round

Troy Matteson	34-31	65
Brad Adamonis	34-32	66
Tiger Woods	34-33	67
Rory Sabbatini	32-35	67
Stuart Appleby	35-32	67
Kevin Streelman	33-34	67
Stewart Cink	34-34	68
Doug LaBelle II	33-35	68
Anthony Kim	36-32	68
Kevin Stadler	37-31	68
Nathan Green	34-34	68
Charles Howell III	33-35	68
Ryuji Imada	34-35	69
Rocco Mediate	33-36	69
Camilo Villegas	35-34	69
Tim Wilkinson	34-35	69
Craig Kanada	32-37	69
Jeff Quinney	34-35	69
Dean Wilson	36-33	69
Parker McLachlin	34-35	69
Mathias Gronberg	34-36	70
Carl Pettersson	34-36	70
Phil Mickelson	36-34	70
John Senden	36-34	70
Cody Freeman	36-34	70
Rod Pampling	34-36	70
Chris DiMarco	36-34	70
Joe Durant	36-34	70
Robert Allenby	35-35	70
Stephen Ames	34-36	70
Nick O'Hern	35-35	70
Scott Sterling	35-35	70
Tom Pernice, Jr.	35-36	71
Steve Elkington	35-36	71
Jesper Parnevik	35-36	71
Hunter Mahan	37-34	71
Jeff Maggert	36-35	71
J.B. Holmes	34-37	71
Fred Couples	36-35	71
Ken Duke	35-36	71
Jin Park	36-35	71
Shigeki Maruyama	36-35	71
Stephen Leaney	37-34	71
Craig Barlow	36-35	71
Aaron Baddeley	34-37	71
John Rollins	34-37	71
Matt Kuchar	36-35	71
Briny Baird	36-35	71
Carlos Franco	37-34	71
Martin Laird	34-37	71
Cameron Beckman	36-36	72
Brandt Snedeker	37-35	72
K.J. Choi	36-36	72
George McNeill	35-37	72
Boo Weekley	38-34	72
Matt Jones	36-36	72
Jason Allred	40-32	72
Frank Lickliter II	36-36	72
Lucas Glover	37-35	72
Bill Haas	35-37	72
Rich Beem	36-36	72
Tim Herron	37-35	72
Brett Wetterich	35-37	72
Eric Axley	34-38	72
Mark O'Meara	36-36	72
Johnson Wagner	37-35	72
Brenden Pappas	35-37	72
Dustin Johnson	37-35	72
Paul Claxton	35-37	72
Jason Day	37-35	72
Patrick Sheehan	38-35	73
J.P. Hayes	35-38	73
Chris Riley	38-35	73
Tim Clark	37-36	73
Michael Allen	39-34	73
Jason Gore	35-38	73
Vijay Singh	39-34	73
Jim Furyk	35-38	73
Charley Hoffman	35-38	73
Mark Wilson	36-37	73
Kenneth Ferrie	39-34	73
Brandt Jobe	37-36	73
Chris Stroud	37-36	73
Jon Mills	35-38	73
Jamie Lovemark	38-35	73
Bubba Watson	37-36	73
Kevin Sutherland	36-37	73
Tag Ridings	36-37	73
Nick Watney	38-35	73
Paul Azinger	34-39	73
Nicholas Thompson	35-38	73
Todd Demsey	36-37	73
Roland Thatcher	37-36	73
Marc Turnesa	37-36	73
John Mallinger	39-35	74
Steve Marino	40-34	74
J.L. Lewis	37-37	74
Geoff Ogilvy	38-36	74
Alex Cejka	36-38	74
Y.E. Yang	36-38	74
Justin Bolli	36-38	74
Chez Reavie	38-36	74
Nick Flanagan	38-36	74
Michael Letzig	38-36	74
Jeff Overton	37-37	74
Charles Warren	35-39	74
Bo Van Pelt	37-37	74
Kenny Perry	39-35	74
Jerry Kelly	37-37	74
Mark Calcavecchia	37-37	74
Ben Crane	35-39	74
Jay Williamson	36-38	74
Ryan Armour	38-36	74
Duffy Waldorf	36-39	75
Scott McCarron	36-39	75
D.J. Trahan	38-37	75
Jason Bohn	38-37	75
Kent Jones	40-35	75
Paul Wise	38-37	75
Billy Mayfair	40-35	75
Fredrik Jacobson	37-38	75
Bart Bryant	37-38	75
Peter Lonard	40-36	76
Cliff Kresge	38-38	76
Robert Garrigus	37-39	76
Justin Leonard	37-39	76
David Duval	40-36	76
Todd Hamilton	38-38	76
Bob Estes	37-39	76
Brett Rumford	41-35	76
Kyle Thompson	38-38	76
Ron Whittaker	39-37	76
Travis Perkins	39-37	76
Brad Elder	38-38	76
Sean O'Hair	37-39	76
Tommy Armour III	38-38	76
Ben Curtis	38-38	76
Tom Lehman	38-38	76
Omar Uresti	40-36	76
Kevin Na	39-37	76
Vaughn Taylor	40-37	77
John Daly	41-36	77
Richard Johnson	38-39	77
J.J. Henry	36-41	77
Woody Austin	38-39	77
Pat Perez	40-38	78
Ryan Moore	42-36	78
Brian Bateman	39-39	78
Justin B. Hicks	39-39	78
Mathew Kodama	39-39	78
Bob Tway	40-39	79
Mark Hensby	38-41	79
Kenny Kim	39-40	79
Peter Campbell	41-39	80
Will MacKenzie	40-40	80

By The Associated Press

RALPH

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title is the first major championship of his golf career. He said he won the A flights of various tournaments in the past, but never a tournament as big as Fil-Taga's yearend competition.

He said one reason he hasn't won the Golfer of the Year in the past is simply because he wasn't able to compete in previous years.

Yumul said his family—wife Joy and son Reilee—are usually in the Philippines in the first month of the year because they always try to spend New Year in his wife's home country.

"Even though I won monthly tournaments in Fil-Taga every year, this is actually the first time I've competed in the Golfer of the Year," he said. I also didn't expect to win actually because I was competing against players with 22, 24, and even 28 handicaps."

Finishing third in the yearend tournament of Fil-Taga was November Ace Fr. Manny Corcuera. The parish priest came away with a net of 146.

November Ace (B Flight) Greg Gamboa came in fourth with a two-day haul similar to Fr. Manny's. January Ace Edgar Abalos wound up fifth (148), followed by March Ace Henry Baustista (149), February Ace Freddie Cataluna (151), September Ace Rene Batallones (151), August Ace Jhun Calma (151), October Ace Adony Matutino (152), May Ace Nono Bostre (155), and December Ace Manny Po (167).

Fil-Taga's 2007 officers are led by president Jun Dela Cruz Jr., vice-president Jhun Calma, secretary Manny Po, and treasurer Arnaldo Guban.

Its board of directors is made up of Fr. Manny Corcuera, Miguel Cruz, Jr., Ted Malaran, Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallones, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan.

Fil-Taga membership dues for 2007 are also due on the second day of the tournament and those who want to enter in the January Ace need to pay 50 percent, or $25 of the fee.

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the $35 to $40 price range for most tournaments.

YOUTH

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Sonics 0-2 start and after that, they won five straight before losing to the Ol'Aces, 76-80, last Nov. 11.

Rock Steady finished the regular season with a second-best 10-2 record, while the Sonics came in fourth with a 9-3 mark.

Rock Steady scored consecutive wins against the Bombers, 88-63, and the Suns, 98-90, to reach the semis. The Sonics, meanwhile, renewed their growing rivalry with the Junior Nationals last Jan. 16, when they manage to squeeze out an 88-86 decision.

The winner of the first game between the Junior Nationals and Suns will play the loser of the Rock Steady-Sonics match on Wednesday. The loser will be relegated to watch at the sidelines.

The Suns ended the season tied with Rock Steady (10-2) but the latter earned the second seeding based on their win over the Sonny Flores-coached Saipan Stevedore crew.

The Junior Nationals ended up in fifth place with an 8-4 slate. They lost their regular season meeting with the Suns, 64-74, last Nov. 26 and are looking for some payback as they try to advance to the finals.

The championship game will be played on Feb. 1 and if necessary the second game the following day.

WAHOO

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Mother Nature postponed the original date for the 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby, which was Jan. 9, as 15-20 knots generating swells from five to seven feet were forecasted during that weekend.

Ten boats and many more fisherman heeded John D. Guerrero's call and took to the water in December 2006 in search of a winner as participants of the inaugural Wahoo Jackpot Derby.

The top prize of the inaugural competition went to captain John Tenorio and angler Jack Diaz of the *Ana Maria* who reeled in the catch of the day when they hoisted their 22.55-lbs. wahoo out of the water, and their efforts on the sea brought them a hefty $600 cash prize.

The crew of the *Ana Maria* wasn't the only group of gaffers to take home a share of the prize money, as captain Mark Hanson, Dave Banes, and Narong the Wahoo Wrangler took home $400 for weighing in the most pieces of pisces when they brought the *Sea Amigo* to the docks with three fish on board.

For more information about the 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby, contact MVA's Frank Tudela at 664-3200/01 or e-mail at ftudela@mymarianas.com.

PATRIOTS

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might sound, it felt 32 degrees colder in Green Bay (minus-23 wind chill) when the Packers and Giants kicked off. The New England conditions were ideal, relatively speaking.

It wasn't ideal for the Chargers to play a game of such importance without Tomlinson, who might have turned at least a couple of those trips inside the Patriots' 10 into touchdowns. Rivers was gimpy, Tomlinson essentially didn't play. Tight end Antonio Gates was in and out of the lineup. It's why Norv Turner, even in defeat, repeatedly praised his players for "laying it on the line when (some of them) probably shouldn't have been out there on the field. I can't say enough about Phil Rivers. I can't ask for more than what he gave. He gave us a chance to win."

The game hinged on several critical plays on which the Patriots defense simply managed to stop San Diego's offense, and none was bigger than that by Junior Seau, who turned 39 on Saturday and is in his 18th NFL season. He tackled San Diego's Michael Turner in the open field near the goal line on third-and-one with the Chargers threatening to take the lead. Seau's play forced another field goal, San Diego's final of the day, and kept the Patriots ahead, 14-12.

The irony was inescapable. Seau spent his first 14 seasons with the Chargers, trying in vain to win the Super Bowl. Now here he was, stopping the Chargers from taking the lead in their pursuit to reach the Super Bowl without him. Seau even said afterward, "I am always a Charger. That's my home. I took the scenic route to get here. But we played and experienced it together; that's how I look at it."

Harrison, 35, looked around at some of his defensive teammates, then turned to a reporter and said, "Not bad for a bunch of old guys." He was referring, obviously, to Seau, 34-year-old linebacker Bruschi, 33-year-old linebacker Larry Izzo, 32-year-old linebacker Mike Vrabel, and himself. "It never gets old," Harrison said of getting to the Super Bowl. "We do, but it doesn't."

Someone asked Harrison if he would allow himself to enjoy the victory a full 24 hours, a temptation the Patriots surely didn't give into through the first 17 victories of the season. "I might enjoy this until Thursday,"

Harrison said. "Look, it's a tremendous ride we're on right now. It never gets old."

Kevin Faulk, the all-purpose back who made a fabulous third-and-11 reception that allowed the Patriots to play keep away down the stretch, couldn't maintain the stoic facade that has served his team so well this season. "It doesn't matter how many times you've been there or what you've done over your career," he said. "When that moment comes, you can't hold your emotions. You can't hide them. I would say we've been holding them (back) because we've been playing to win games, to get to this point right now. And at this point, right now, the emotions are high."

Hocog victorious at Top Pool Bar

Vic. S. Hocog returned to prominence in the Top Pool Bar Professional 9-Ball Billiards Tournament last Jan. 19 at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Federer-Djokovic set for semifinal match

Top-ranked Roger Federer will meet No. 3 Novak Djokovic in a semifinal match Friday that will determine who faces unheralded Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the Australian Open final.

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Ralph Yumul wins Golfer of the Year

Ralph Yumul, Fil-Taga Golf Association's 2007 Golfer of the Year champion, poses with his trusty putter at the family owned Do It Best Hardware yesterday.

MARK RABAGO

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Ralph Yumul won the 2007 Golfer of the Year of the Fil-Taga Golf Association held over the weekend at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The 36-year-old general manager of YCO Corp. beat out Senate President Pete Reyes for the year-end championship of the club after shooting a two-day total of net 140 compared to the lawmaker's net 145.

Yumul, the Fil-Taga June Ace, carded a 68 net in the first day of the competition at the east course of the Kagman venue after the 11-handicapper needed 79 strokes to finish the 18 holes.

Three strokes behind Yumul was Reyes, who fired a net 71 after a gross of 81. The Senate president won the July tournament of the club last year.

Yumul continued to play well in the final day of the Golfer of the Year at the west course, recording a net 72 after a gross of 83. Reyes, meanwhile, failed to catch up with the first day leader after the 10-handicapper finished with a net of 74 (gross 84).

In an interview with the *Saipan Tribune* yesterday at the family owned Do It Best Hardware in Chalan Piao, Yumul said windy conditions and the challenge from Sen. Reyes made his victory sweeter.

"The entire tournament was neck-and-neck between me and Sen. Reyes. It was also very windy—15-20 mph. Fortunately, that was an advantage for me because I hit longer than the Senate president and other golfers," said Yumul.

The businessman said he played conservatively during the two-day tournament, opting to use iron clubs rather than his driver because he might overshoot the greens.

Yumul also confessed that he wasn't even supposed to play Sunday and was leaning toward fishing but after shooting a 79 in Day 1, he decided to play in the second round.

He said the Golfer of the Year

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Youth vs. veterans in Bud Cup Final Four

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It will be youth against veterans and fast-paced offense versus setup plays in Monday's semifinal round of the 2007 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball Leauge.

The four remaining teams in the hunt for the two finals berths in the Bud Cup resume their quest on Jan. 28 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The CNMI Junior Nationals will open up the Final Four when they clash with the Saipan Stevedore Suns at 7pm, while the Southern Sonics battle Rock Steady in the 8:30pm nightcap.

But a lot more will be at stake in the Sonics-Rock Steady match with the winner earning an automatic berth in the finals, while the loser gets an early vacation.

This will be the second time Rock Steady faces the Sonics this season. They won their first encounter in the elimination round as the veteran-laden squad rammed past the young but talented crew of coach Jesse Tudela, 111-92, last Sept. 26.

That win was part of Rock Steady's five-game winning run before the Junior Nationals' ended their streak with a 91-89 win last Nov. 5. That loss was part of the

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JON PEREZ

A.J. Baculod of Stevedore Suns goes up against Joel Punzalan of Bombers in their BANMI Budweiser Cup-Men's Island-wide Basketball League game last Thursday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Wahoo Jackpot Derby reset to Feb. 16

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The 2008 Wahoo Jackpot Derby will now set sail on Feb. 16, or four weeks after the original date was postponed due to inclement weather.

According to the Saipan Fishermen's Association and Marianas Visitors Authority, other details about the event remain the same and only the competition date and pre-registration has changed.

Pre-registration is set a day after the tournament, Feb. 15, from 4:30pm to 6:30pm at Smiling Cove Marina.

The cost to participate in the derby is $100 for a crew of four and $25 for each additional angler.

SFA would like to thank the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife, DPS Boating Safety Division, Emergency Management Office, and the Marianas Visitors Authority for supporting the event.

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By MICHAEL WILBON
The Washington Post

Patriots begin to enjoy the moment

For once, the New England Patriots didn't act as if they'd just arrived at the dentist's office. Tom Brady smiled. Bill Belichick even managed to talk in complete sentences. Some might have accused him of being downright engaging. From locker to locker, the men who make up the 18-0 Patriots acknowledged that, finally, they are on the verge of something previously unthinkable. Their expression of joy shouldn't be confused with satisfaction, what with a Super Bowl date standing between them and perfection. But it wasn't difficult to identify the winning team after New England's 21-12 victory over San Diego in the AFC Championship game Sunday.

"I can't tell you how good it is to come in here after that game," Belichick said. He had every reason to be happy, specifically with his defense for holding the Chargers without a touchdown, even though San Diego moved inside the Patriots' 10-yard line on three different occasions and even though Tom Brady threw three interceptions on what amounted to a fairly lousy day for him. Four field goals were all San Diego could manage, and it certainly didn't help the Chargers that LaDainian Tomlinson, their record-setting running back and wrecker of defenses, carried the ball only two times and caught just one pass, because of a knee injury.

Countless times over three championship seasons, Golden Boy Brady has saved the day with last-second touchdown passes and improbable drives to come from behind and win. But the script was flipped here in the AFC title game. It was the defense that saved Brady, whose 22-for-33 performance with two touchdowns wasn't nearly as impressive as the numbers might sound. "That's why they call it a team," Patriots safety Rodney Harrison said. "Tom can't go out and pass for 400 yards and three touchdowns every week. He doesn't need to."

Linebacker Tedy Bruschi, in the middle of those defensive plays as usual, said, "It was crucial that we had those red-zone stops. When you hug your coach after you've won the AFC Championship and the first thing he says is, `Great job in the red area,' you know it was important. It's great to see in the biggest game of the year that we come up and force them to kick field goals."

It wasn't much artistically, as playoff games go. Philip Rivers, playing despite a partially torn knee ligament, barely completed 50 percent of his passes (19 of 37) and threw two interceptions. Brady threw three picks and was tossing it all over the yard early. As championship weekend went, Patriots vs. Chargers definitely had the JV weather. It was 23 degrees at kickoff at Gillette Stadium, but the wind chill made it feel like nine degrees. As bad as that

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